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BIRTH.

On January 21st, at Shanghai, the wife of A. MATHER PRICE, of a son.
On January 24th, at Shanghai, the wife of EDWARD THOMAS JOSEPH BLOUNT, of a daughter.
On January 24th, at Shanghai, the wife of A. D. LOWE, of a daughter.
On January 31st, at No. 8, Mosque Street, Hongkong, the wife of Mr. JORGE ALBERTO BRITTO DA SILVA, of a son.
On January 25th, at Hampstead, the wife of J. A. MACLEAN, of a son.

MARRIAGES

On January 23rd, at Shanghai, Dr. FREDERICK J. TOOKER, of Siangnan, to Dr. MARY E. FITCH, of Soochow.
On January 29th, at St. Joseph's Church, HERBERT WILLIAM BIRD, second son of Colonel-Commandant Frederic Vincent Gylfrey Bird, R.M.L.I., to NOBA, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Y. V. Vernon of Hongkong.
On January 29th, at 2.30 p.m., at St. John's Cathedral, Miss MARY MARGARET PALMER, daughter of Capt. C. H. Palmer, I.M.C., Foochow, to Mr. PAUL GOTLOB BAENTZEN, of I.M.C., Pakhoi.

DEATHS.

On January 21st, at Yokohama, LAURA MARIA FERRAS BARNES, wife of Frank Hy. Barnes, age 30 years.
On January 24th, at Nanking, General TCHENG Ki-toe, aged 54 years, of sudden illness.
On Friday, 25th January, 1907, at Latell Villas, Kowloon, ALICE MURKIL (Moo) the youngest and dearest loved child of Will and Nellie Hobbs—in her sixth year.
On 26th January, FRANK J. MAITLAND of Messrs. Maitland & Co., Ltd., Shanghai.
On January 27th, at Shanghai, NELLIE MART, wife of A. V. Brown, aged 42 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILED.

The German mail of 1st January arrived, per the s.s. *Preussen*, on Thursday, the 31st ultimo, and the French mail of 4th January arrived per the s.s. *Australien*, to-day.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Singapore and district subscriptions to the China Famine Relief Fund have reached about \$27,000.

The first plague case for this year was reported on Jan. 25th. It was a hinese in Lee Ynen Street West, and ended fatally.

The first auto-bus to seat 41 passengers was seen in Yokohama on Wednesday, the 16th January, and attracted much attention.

Hongkong is being provided with a brewery, which is under construction at Woog-nei-cheong. Brewing will be commenced very shortly.

Last week's communicable disease included the plague case already reported, three cases of diphtheria, five of enteric fever, and eleven of smallpox.

The Civil Service Cooperative Store is to be opened at Beaconsfield Arcade on March 25th. Members of the Army, Navy and Police force are eligible to become shareholders.

Flags flying from the Douglas steamer *Hailan* and the figures "100" displayed announced that the vessel on Jan. 25 celebrated the completion of its sixth hundred trip to the coast ports.

Unless the charges be mere pretexts to get otherwise objectionable men into their hands, the Shanghai native authorities evidently do believe that there are anti-dynastic agitators seriously at work.

Peking is not going to punish Viceroy Shum for his practical refusal to go to his Yun-kwei appointment. There is a rumour that he may be permitted to exchange with the Tartar General of Mukden.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. are in receipt of private telegraphic advices from Singapore informing them that the crushing of the Raub Australian Gold mining Co., Ltd. for the past four weeks yielded 84,000 smelted gold from 5,517 tons stone.

A Manila paper notes that Captain C. W. Mead, well known in Manila in former days, but for some years connected with the construction of the Canton-Hankow railway in China, has returned to Manila and opened an office under the name of C. W. Mead and Company, Civil and Consulting Engineers.

Certain American reformers, who talk of England's sin against China in respect of opium, flatter themselves that their own country is clean handed. They ignore the supply and exportation of ginseng to the Far East, an equally sinful product. This reflection occurs in an American book by an American author—Mr. Hulbert's work on Korea.

At the request of several shareholders in the Liao Kung Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., 1 d., it has been decided by the Board of Directors that the date of payment and acceptance for the unissued capital of 542 shares to which shareholders are entitled in accordance with the circular letter dated January 14th, 1907, shall be extended to March next for shareholders resident in China and Hongkong.

The members of the Chinese Municipal Council at Shanghai held a meeting with reference to the extension of the electric tramway to Sica-wei, which would necessitate the line passing through native territory under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Council. The members opposed a motion to allow the tramway to pass through Chinese territory and a memorial has been presented by the Council to the Shanghai Taotai to that effect.

The *Universal Gazette* says:—It is decided by the Peking Government to appoint a Viceroy for Manchuria and three governors, one for each province. It is reported that Viceroy Yuan Shih-kai will be appointed Viceroy of Manchuria, Viceroy Tuan Fang, Viceroy of Chibli, Viceroy Tsen Chun-hsuan, Viceroy at Nanking while Military Governor Chao Erh-hsun, will be Viceroy of Yunkwei. The report that Viceroy Tsen Chun-hsuan (Shum) has memorialized asking the Throne to grant him leave for a tour along the Yangtze, is unfounded.

On the 26th January H.E. the Governor received a distinguished visitor in the person of Admiral C. Tamari at Government House. The Admiral who arrived in the Colony the previous evening on board the Japanese cruiser "Takachiko," landed at Blaek Pier, where a guard of honour from the Middlesex Regiment was drawn up to receive him and the officers who accompanied him, the Japanese National Anthem being played by the Band as they stepped on the pier. Chairs from Government House were in waiting, and the Admiral, after inspecting the guard, proceeded thither. H.E. the Governor returned the visit later in the day.

ANARCHY IN KWANGSI.

FRENCH GET RAILWAY CONCESSION.

News on Feb. 3rd from Kwangsi makes it appear that Viceroy Chou Fu has more trouble on his hands in the Kwangsi province than he can cope with. The West River pirates, entrenched and successfully fighting his troops, are a mere detail when compared with the state of things inland. Our informant sums it up in the saying that Kwangsi is in a state of anarchy. The schools are comparatively empty, and arms and lethal weapons are making their appearance in surprising quantities. The trouble that has brought things to a head is said to be a well-authenticated message from Peking that the concession for the Kwangsi railways has been given to a French syndicate. This story, at present lacking official corroboration, is said to come from Kwangsi exponents resident in Peking, and to be believed by officialdom in the province itself. Even though there be nothing in it, we are assured that there is no doubt of its disturbing effects, one of which is the bolder demeanour of the lawless element.

CROWN AGENTS.

(Daily Press, January 26th.)

Last month, as we have already reported in our news columns, the question of the Crown Agents was again brought to the notice of the members of the House of Commons. Apparently a determined effort is to be made to force an issue, with which movement a great amount of Colonial sympathy is expected to be associated, for the matter has been shelved too long, and in ways quite inconsistent with the principles of government that were strengthened by the Ballot Act. Mr. WALKER's questions could not be argumentative—for that is unparliamentary—but they were so ingeniously framed as to throw into prominence "the unconstitutional and anomalous position" which the Crown Agents and their defenders are obliged to take up under criticism. When the same Member of Parliament was officially told, six or seven months ago, that the appointment of nominees, without examination, to positions in the Crown Agents' office was a purely domestic matter affecting and interesting only the Crown Agents themselves, it was felt that a most daring, almost insolent, challenge had been flung to those who are anxious to see this nepotic blemish on a democratic constitution done away with. Last month Mr. WALKER asked whether the SECRETARY OF STATE would, in the exercise of his general control and supervision over the conduct of the business of the Crown Agents, consider whether greater efficiency would ensue if the present system, under which appointments to the staff of the Crown Agents' office were made by nomination and without an examination of any kind, were replaced by a system under which candidates were required to enter for a competitive examination in open competition. Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL replied that it was obviously desirable that appointments to Government services should be made either by competitive examination or by selection after standard examination, and promised that the SECRETARY OF STATE would consider whether such a reform could be conveniently effected in the system of appointment to the staff of the Crown Agents' office. But he declared that the questions connected with such a change were complex, and no decision could be taken upon them at present. Though this politician is often twitted with his youth, he has much of the acuteness of older Parliamentary hands, and he promptly "hedged" by adding the remark that it must not be assumed that the SECRETARY OF STATE admitted any lack of efficiency in the Crown Agents' department. Whether it be so admitted or not does not really matter; the condition of affairs speaks for itself. A Sikh night watchman could be provided by a humane employer with a feather bed and a blanket without admitting that he would go to sleep on duty; and a tender hearted mistress might over-feed her cat without admitting that its qualities as a mouser would deteriorate. Others would still know what to think; and unfortunately, in the case of the Crown Agents, there has been no dearth of evidence as to their lack of efficiency. But Mr. WALKER also attacked the subject on constitutional grounds. He asked the UNDER-SECRETARY whether, seeing that the funds available for the maintenance of the Crown Agents' office were drawn in part from protectorates which are largely financed by grants-in-aid from the Treasury, he would arrange that the House of Commons should not again, until it had a practical and efficacious

right of control, be asked to sanction expenditure that would go in part towards the maintenance of the Crown Agents' office. Face to face with this poser, the UNDER-SECRETARY was less confident, and weakly pointed out that the system provides for an audit of the accounts of grant-in-aid colonies. He apparently was able to see, what the Crown Agents' critics have never lost sight of, that such control as the SECRETARY OF STATE is supposed to exercise was unpractical and unefficient, and in that case, he said, the House of Commons would no doubt be allowed to express its opinion "upon some convenient opportunity." That reply merely pressed upon the sore; the mischief is that opportunities to discuss the Crown Agents, entrenched as they are against all constitutional procedure, do not constitutionally present themselves. They have to be searched for, almost invented; and it is manifestly improper that a department so intimately concerned with the expenditure of public money should be so protected from criticism and sheltered from investigation. The critics have found a splendid champion in Mr. WALKER, and Mr. CHURCHILL was not long in discovering that he was crossing swords with a duelist too clever for him. Mr. WALKER asked him if there were any other cases in which grants of public money were made without the corresponding right of public control. Unwilling to admit, what the question clearly made evident, that the case of the Crown Agents presented an exception to all rules, the UNDER-SECRETARY mumbled an evasive answer, for the purport of which the public had to wait the appearance of Hansard. Finally, Mr. WALKER raised the question of the consulting engineers' fees, and asked whether the consulting engineers to the Crown Agents had anything to gain by recommending the construction of railways; whether they, or their representatives, were employed and received remuneration for their services in connection with the construction of railways which had been undertaken upon their recommendation; and if so, what had been the amount of their remuneration from this source during the last ten years, how was it assessed, and from what fund or funds had it been paid? Mr. CHURCHILL replied that the consulting engineers employed on behalf of the Crown Colony and Protectorate Governments advised only on such schemes as were referred for their advice by the Colonial Governments with the sanction of the SECRETARY OF STATE. They did not recommend schemes in any other sense than that they stated the merits or demerits of any project upon which they were called upon to advise, from an engineering point of view. Should the SECRETARY OF STATE decide that any scheme should be carried out, after the consulting engineers had advised, their further advice was, if advice was necessary, utilised in connection with its execution. The course followed was the ordinary practice whenever professional advice in any branch was sought either by Governments or by private individuals. How far it might be possible or expedient to furnish a return of the nature desired, required, he urged, further consideration. In order to stimulate such "further consideration," Mr. WALKER at once gave notice that the return would be asked for. We are still waiting for that return, and most anxious to give it what publicity we may, when it does come.

Haiphong is now to have a Water Police Force. Its object is to exercise a more active supervision of the shipping and notably to prevent the abduction of children.

POWERS AND PERSIA.

(Daily Press, 28th January.)

One of the most curious, if not the absolutely most curious of the many reversals of policy which have marked the last few years, seems about to be accomplished with regard to Persia. The alteration has not been brought about by any definite change of men or change of intention, but has been the natural outgrowth of events of quite a different nature and in a quite different direction. That Great Britain and Russia should by any possibility have anything in common in their regards towards Persia would five years ago have seemed too ridiculous to be even discussed as within the scope of the practical politician; to-day it is openly spoken of as the most probable of events. The two contributing circumstances which have led up to the volte face, have occurred actually on the two opposite coasts of the great Eurasian Continent, and their effects have been felt throughout all the intermediate countries. Russia four years ago formed a design to extinguish Japan, and create herself the arbiter of Asia. As six centuries earlier Japan had risen to the occasion, and defected the arms of Kublai Khan, so on this she succeeded in preventing the over-running of Korea, and kept the Russian arms at bay till other nations, in the interests of peace, intervened, and persuaded the two combatants to come to a mutual understanding. The attack on Japan had not proceeded from the wiser and cooler head of Russian statesman, but had been instigated by a young and inexperienced Tsar, led astray by a band of irrepressible chauvinists; while the great body of her people were openly opposed to a war which had been forced on the nation at large by a small section of firebrands who had gained temporarily the ear of the Tsar. Unconnected with the war, for many years a general approach had been going on between France and England, the two principal western nations of Europe. This had been brought about by an evident intention of the Central European Powers to form amongst themselves a close alliance, one of the professed aims of which was to establish a preponderating influence, both commercial and political, over the west. France and England had long been isolated owing to old differences, but these had gradually passed away, or become reduced to a few questions of little comparative importance, whilst looming uncomfortably ahead was the threatening storm-cloud of Germanic dominiance. Before her war with Japan, Germany had gone out of her way to display her esteem for her neighbour Russia, but with the failure of the Russian chauvinists to carry on their policy of aggression, and the general upheaval of the country consequent thereon, Germany began to affect what seemed to Russia a somewhat supercilious air; when therefore France in the most natural way suggested that her friends should also be friendly to one another, the notion, which two years previously would have been scouted, fell on not altogether unwilling ears. Now Russia and England had both their own policies in Persia. England's interests were largely commercial, and as such she felt herself opposed by Russia, whose main aims were as largely political, but who in following her political programme, was as intently bent in closing to the outer world the avenues of commercial access as England was herself bent on opening them. The sequences of the war with Japan had taught the powers that be in Russia that it was not always a safe

or wise policy to endeavour to stir up against a hostile state the elements of discontent which lie, dormant it may be, invariably under the surface. These elements of disorder after the first news of Russia's discomforture arrived, showed themselves merely scathed, not destroyed, and it was evident that they could not be played with with impunity. Russia and England had long been carrying on their own political games in these districts; sometimes one, sometimes the other in the ascendant. It had been a seesaw with little advantage to either, and at the moment England was on top, but said she was willing to treat in a friendly spirit. But there has always been a great difficulty in these dealings between England and Russia: Russia has always held to the view that treaties were but temporary conveniences, and that as soon as she saw it would be to her momentary advantage to denounce, and was able to do so, no moral obligation lay on her to longer conform; and a treaty made under such conditions, as seen by England, was likely to prove little more than waste paper. Here, however, another element almost insensibly has come to the forefront.

Some four years ago Germany commenced to look seriously towards the Near East, and at first her movements were looked on almost with friendly sympathy by England and France. One of her schemes was to promote a railway from European Turkey to the Euphrates valley. Now England had had such a scheme herself on hand a good many years ago, but the opening of the Suez Canal, and the general jealousy of other European nations had led to its abandonment or delay. When therefore Germany proposed to take up the scheme, and applied for assistance to France and England, both were disposed to join in. Germany, however, disclosed her hand too soon; the assistance of the others was, indeed, to be availed of, but Germany was to have the entire control. She had for some time been quietly engaged linking up her communications with Central Europe and European Turkey, and the present project was clearly intended to extend them to the Persian Gulf. This would not in itself have raised the hostility of the others, but when Germany was asked to guarantee equal treatment for all on the new line, she flatly refused, with the result that the others decided to take no share in the construction. Meanwhile the fears of Russia were aroused lest the new line should prove to be intended to be but the introduction of the thin end of the wedge to block her own communications with Central Asia. England she knew, and France she knew, but Germany in this affair she knew not; practically a rough sort of incipient modus vivendi had for some time existed between England and Russia in Persia, but a good deal of unnecessary snarling went on between the two in each individual case of contact, owing to the want of some readily understandable rule to which each could refer. This was all very well as long as only the two were concerned, but became a source of weakness to both when a third Power entered the lists quite ready and well disposed to set them both by the ears. At last the one thing needed for an understanding had been found, and it now was advisable in their own interests to come to some common agreement. This is really the secret underlying the improved condition of affairs; and not any reversal of national policy nor any unusual, or unprecedented exercise of individual acts of diplomacy on the part of

the statesmen of one or other country. It is interesting then to notice, and affords some prospect of stability in the new arrangement, that both England and Russia have seemingly come to recognise as a fact that those things wherein their interests are coincident are vastly more numerous and important than those wherein they diverge. This, as in the case of the Entente between England and France, is the one essential thing that bids fair to render such an apparently unprecedented occurrence as a cordial union in Central Asiatic politics between England and Russia, not only practicable, but highly probable.

CHINESE REBELS.

(*Daily Press*, January 29th.)

Not long ago we ventured to express the opinion that the insurrectionary symptoms in mid-China did not deserve the attention that a persistent anti-dynastic movement would deserve and get. This opinion is evidently not shared everywhere, and the contrary opinion seems to be gaining ground, in Japan, that these troubles indicate at least the beginning of a revolutionary movement, intended ultimately to displace the Manchu dynasty. The absence of anti-foreign manifestations of any overt nature by the insurgents is held by some to bear out the contention that these risings, which we have hitherto regarded as repetitions of the sporadic rebellion incidental and common to the Chinese administrative system, are really of a political nature, and purely pro-patria. The evidence that so many of the rebels are well-armed proves nothing, in our opinion, since the same thing has been noticed in connection with ordinary modern pirates. Modern arms of precision have undoubtedly been finding their way into China in great quantities and with fatal ease, doubtless to the enrichment of some people who may one day have occasion to regret their participation in this trade, which, however, was bound to take place, and could not well be stopped. If it be true, as alleged in some of the Japanese papers, that placards have appeared in the centres of disaffection, immediately prior to the more conspicuous risings, and that these placards explicitly denounce the existing dynasty, then there would appear to be more colour for the suggestion that the sons of Han have discovered so belatedly the necessity from their point of view of getting rid of their Manchu conquerors and rulers. But in that case we would expect to find the rebels cutting off their queues, and altering their dress, which at present, though commonly called "Chinese," is really regarded as "foreign" and a badge of defeat, by Chinese who give any thought to things to which custom has lent familiarity. There has been, so far as we are aware, no suggestion that any of the rebels have abandoned shaving or begun hair-cutting, which would appear obvious preliminaries to persons really inimical to the Manchu regime. Then the comparative ease with which these riots are quelled and suppressed is against the belief that there is behind them any patriotism, as we understand it. It is true, as we admitted when first referring to the subject, that the famine cannot be held altogether accountable, since some of the more serious of these disturbances have originated in districts where the pinch of famine has not been experienced; and it is quite plausible to suggest that the malecontents have taken advantage of the opportunity made by famine to stir up the starving people by suggesting causes for effects in their propaganda. We do not, however, believe that

the Tsings are in any danger, and even if there be any serious talk of revolution, we fancy it will all subside quickly enough when the EMPRESS-DOWAGER ceases to impose her imperious whims upon a great and rising people. The EMPEROR himself, having shown some desire and care for the welfare of his people, will probably attract as much general loyalty as any of his predecessors, Han or Tsing, have ever done. Another thing against the theory of dynastic revolution is that so far we have heard no whisper of a possible Han successor. Anti-dynastic revolutionaries are usually provided with some figurehead nominated to succeed the one to be dispossessed, and it would be news to us to learn that the inland Chinese are ready in this respect. It would be far from unnatural for the conduct of the Manchu administration in its recent manifestations to breed discontent and hostility, in any other race; but the Chinese are not inherently rebellious, as some races are. Their temperament, cultured by many generations of precept and training, is to bend to the breeze, to take the line of least resistance, and to submit to the ills they know rather than to fly to others at which they can only guess. The *Japan Times* thinks it seems to be a part of the policy of the Peking Government to raise the cry of "interests and rights recovery" and thereby divert the popular attention from the anti-Manchu movement, but the policy is capable of quite other explanations, which we have endeavoured to illustrate from time to time. We mention it chiefly because of the interest attaching to this Japanese comment, which is followed by a solemn warning to the present Peking Government that if they do not amend their ways, the western Powers "will soon find reasons for supporting the cause of the revolutionaries", to their own advantage; and by an appeal to the revolutionaries to "forego their hopeless agitation, which only furnishes the ever-watchful foreign Powers with chances for aggression". Our Japanese contemporary earnestly hopes "that official China will discard its foolish anti-foreign policy". These quotations seem to embrace more than one point of view, and, as emanating from a semi-official organ, they afford room for interesting meditation.

THE ROMAN AND CHINESE EMPIRES.

(*Daily Press*, 30th January.)

If Peking has been quite in earnest in endeavouring to introduce reforms in the administration of Government in China, it must be confessed that the results so far are disappointing, and that the so-called reforms have been confined to mere shufflings of the various executive branches, while the real abuses have been allowed to accumulate. The reason is largely that the worst of the abuses are those concerned with the relations of the court to the provinces, and the method of appointment of every official in the Empire. The abuses are of ancient growth and of long standing, they have accumulated so gradually that neither Court nor Province has been sensible of the fact; and so naturally that both have almost of necessity been drawn into the net, and now find themselves practically deprived of power to act independently. Speaking of very similar abuses which had grown up in the Roman Empire during the latter days of the Republic, a writer remarks:

"Extortion, whether it took the shape of illegal requisitions, of systematic blackmailing, or straightforward robbery, was after all an evil which under an honest governor—and there were many such—was mitigated, if not removed

A far more serious defect in the system was that it rendered a comprehensive and consistent imperial policy impossible. Under it the provinces were not so much departments of one empire, as separate principalities, ruled by autocrats absolutely independent of each other, and virtually independent of the home government. Even within the limits of the single province one governor might undo what his predecessor had done. Neither a settled frontier policy, nor a proper adjustment of taxation, nor even a proper estimate and control of imperial expenditure was possible".

Without changing one word the sentence is true of China at the present day. One of the main factors in bringing about the abuses complained of, if not actually the paramount factor, was, of course, in both cases the distance of the provinces from the central administration, and the difficulty of intercommunication. Another equally active in both cases was the shortness of tenure of office, though in Rome this was more serious than in China. Its effect in both cases was similar in inducing the holders of office to look upon the office itself as an appanage to be exploited for the personal benefit of the holder, not the advantage of the province. On the other hand one great abuse which did not exist in Rome, is rampant in China, and more than anything else is effective in delaying the very first steps towards progress. The Roman Senate, however corrupt it became in other respects, never made the appointment of a provincial officer an occasion for accepting bribes. In China the system of bribery, gradually reduced to a regular assessment, is actually the chief source of revenue of the central Government. As if this were not sufficient, the evil is aggravated by the fact that the eunuchs and chamberlains, who hang useless about the Court, are permitted to extort large sums of undefined amount from all candidates for high office, as preliminaries before attaining audiences. This, last is, however, the abuse of all others dear to imperial minds, and the mere suggestion that some change in the internal offices of the Palace might prove useful for the state, has recently more than once met with the resentment of the DOWAGER EMPRESS. Indeed it seems possible that the loss of favour undergone by YUEN SHI-KAI himself is not remotely associated with a similar suggestion on his part. Now although reform were urgently needed, he would be but a poor statesman who would attempt to tear up the roots of the evil plant without providing a practical substitute. No Chinese statesman of the day has risen to an understanding of the fact, and this is another reason why the present agitation for reform has effected so little. There is no continuity in it, in fact, nor any attempt to bring any one thing to a practical issue before starting off on a new line altogether. Last year the cry was for representative government all through the Empire. Doubtless the Chinese character is quite capable of assimilating itself to such a system of government. In the guilds which permeate the country representative natives are accustomed to discuss affairs of state, and these institutions exercise a very wholesome influence in checking the beginnings of evil practices on the part of officials. But from the necessity of the case the action of the guilds is turned into obstructive rather than into constructive channels. This year the cry has assumed quite a different direction; the very same individuals who were before clamouring for a constitution, and holding forth representative government as the one thing needful, have been led off on a different, and equally impracticable track, and constitutional edicts have given place to anti-opium proclamations. This want of

ability to distinguish what is practicable from what is merely sentimental is in fact the great drawback of the native character which dominates and spoils his best intention, just as it was the blemish of the Pigtail Party at the last British elections. Our readers will remember in what a light-hearted manner the whole question of representative assemblies was taken up, and how one or two Imperial edicts were supposed to be efficient to bring about a change which would have entailed the entire reorganisation of the whole system of government from the Emperor to the village *tisan*. The whole thing resolved itself into talk, and nothing but talk of the most idle character, and when this was exhausted the whole thing went off in vapour, and now not even a word is spoken. The same process we see going on to-day with regard to opium. Opium is a curse, we may allow, but the practical statesman before permitting himself to be carried away by sentiment looks at the mundane side of the matter; and asks himself may not the attempt at its removal be accompanied by even worse evils? The greater we make the evil, the more difficult becomes the task of eradicating it. Some enthusiastic opponents of opium in any form make out that some two out of every five men are addicted to the habit of opium smoking. They would propose to eradicate it by tortuous means; the Emperor has in their view only to issue an edict—"Tremble and Obey" and hieh presto!—the thing is done. The practical statesman knows how little connection there is in nature between command and obedience. At the most there are three to carry out the order against two, but one of these is bound to be indifferent, if not hostile, so the machinery breaks down at the first attempt. But more than this, the practical statesman knows from bitter experience how dangerous is the attempt to forcibly interfere with any practice indulged in by any considerable section of a community, and how even with the best intentions, interference is likely to engender still more dangerous and evil practices. In the case of opium the anti-opium agitation in the past has gone far towards engendering such an evil. The Chinese people were well enough content to exercise the opium habit in the way least prejudicial to their minds and bodies, and simply put it in their pipes and smoked it. The anti-opium reformers, to cure them of the habit, taught them to swallow morphine pills or give themselves hypodermic injections of the same alkali. We see the result already. Of course it taken in time the Chinese Government could with the willing concurrence of the Foreign Powers have prevented the importation of morphine, but the fad was not on them, and the opportunity was lost; now the attempt is like locking the gate after the stealing away of the steed.

But even here the difficulties of the case do not end, for the economical aspect has grown of Imperial importance. The large and rich province of Szechuan owes in fact the greater part of its prosperity to its export of opium. Last year, and the amount was little more than the average, thirty-six thousand piculs of opium, valued at least seven and a half million taels passed the custom houses at Ichang alone, in addition to large quantities conveyed through the passes, and in other ways well known to the Chinese trader. This is not all; Ichang only represents one of the regular routes, and large quantities, probably nearly as much as passed Ichang, went by the Wu River, crossed the portages into Hunan, and supplied largely the South,

Other large quantities went over the northern passes into the valley of the Han, so that, as estimated many years ago, the annual opium export of the province amounts to something over a hundred thousand piculs of a value of some 22 million taels. Now with this sum the population of Szechuan, estimated at 40 millions at least, are almost entirely clothed, and to a large extent fed. The people who talk so glibly of reform, and who would, to suit their own pre-conceived ends, turn the world upside down, do not pause to consider any of these things; nor ponder what they are to substitute for them.

We do not talk in our present leader of the would-be financial reformers, not that the subject is in the interests of China unimportant, but that we have given a sufficient dose of advice for one day.

GILBERTIAN CHINA.

(*Daily Press, January 31st.*)

The aspect of China in its alleged state of reform continues to be Gilbertian. Numerous straws show that the wind still blows in the old way; numerous little incidents, more or less amusing, demonstrate that the China of a hundred years ago is still with us, and that the professions of regeneration have not been accompanied by a corresponding change of heart, or of methods. It could only be in the China with which historians have familiarized us that an official like Viceroy SHUM, late of Canton, could for so long a time continue to act in direct disobedience to the commands of his indulgent EMPRESS, even to the extent of refusing to proceed to the scene of his new duties. That it is no question of merely failing to accept an offered appointment, an incident which would be accepted as normal elsewhere, is made evident by the shifts to which he has been resorting to avoid what is regarded as exile for this formerly favoured official. First he must set things in order at Canton. Then, when the arrival of his successor virtually drove him forth, he would first go to Peking to pay his respects and thanks to the Throne. Taking a hint that his formal expressions of gratitude and loyalty might on this occasion be dispensed with, he lingered at Shanghai "under medical advice", while much intriguing and bargaining was carried on for an exchange of posts. Finally, he had an inspiration similar to that which first convinced the EMPRESS-DOWAGER of his superlative merit. He referred to the disloyal elements of the Yangtze provinces, and suggested that he might profitably (to Her Majesty) make a tour of inspection to unearth the rascals. It is reported that he was scolded for a busybody, and ordered to start at once for his new but distasteful place, which, by the way, was good enough for his father. Poor SHUM would possibly now listen appreciatively to even a missionary discourse of the folly of putting trust in princes.

Passing by the Chinese Government's preference for offering its famine-stricken constituents eleemosynary doles rather than work, on the ground that "a loafing man eats less than a man who is working", we may mention also the incidents attending the recent Edict exalting Confucius to the divine level in official worship. That was prompted by the Provincial Judge of Hupeh, LIANG TING-FEN, the anti-foreign official who was also responsible for the recent Imperial snub to YUEN SHI-KAI through his betrayer TANG SHAU-YI. After basking in the EMPRESS-DOWAGER's favour for a few days, this reactionary adviser of hers has just gone back to

Wuchang with his tail between his legs. Nemesis overtook him in this wise. Censor CHAO PING-LIN is an admiring student of the classics, and takes an esoteric view of Confucianism somewhat similar to TOLSTOY's view of Christianity. He was shocked at the idea of an irreligious fellow like LIANG influencing Her Majesty to instate the Sage on a parity with "Heaven and Earth." That was, he pointed out, the Chinese equivalent of blasphemy, for it was well known that Confucius consistently objected to be either deified or worshipped. As in the case of other prophets, his admirers persisted in thrusting deity upon him, and like the others, he strongly deprecated such procedure. Like the others, his protests were often ignored. But this Edict, inspired by a rowdy Judge of Hupeh, was beyond all previous offences, setting the seal of Imperial approval on that which was distasteful to the Sage and deplored by his more intellectual admirers. Hence the denunciation of LIANG, which startled that scheming humbug into a confession that he would esteem himself fortunate if he were allowed to return unpunished to his yamen at Wuchang. The Edict referred to is not yet recalled, and it may not be, but it is very likely that with numerous others it will be by tacit consent ignored. Instances of the petty intrigues of mandarindom, and the arbicular follies of their administration, could be multiplied indefinitely, but there is no need to spoil the market with a superfluity of samples.

FOREIGN WOMEN IN CHINA.

(*Daily Press*, 1st February.)

When a good deal of concern was being felt over the shocking fate of mission women in certain massacres, we ventured to ask male missionaries to lend their support to that public opinion which deprecates the presence of foreign women and children in unprotected districts of China. Beyond seeing our comments reprinted with approval in various newspapers in the Far East, we never learned that any good purpose had been served by our well-meant and certainly timely suggestions; and we were left to think that the male missionaries in China were too selfish for their own comfort to manifest any interest in what seemed a humane precaution. The subject is revived for us by the appearance of "Ways that are dark," a book just published for the Rev. W. GILBERT WALSHE by Messrs. KELLY AND WALSH, LIMITED, a book primarily written for the guidance of missionaries newly arrived in China. To any one at all interested in China, the book has its own fascination, and to those for whom it is specially intended, provided their zeal for instructing others permits them to realize the necessity of attending upon instruction, it should be particularly helpful. It should, to paraphrase ROBERT BURKE, from many a blunder free them, and foolish indiscretion. The Rev. Mr. WALSHE does not, of course, associate himself with our opinion that only male missionaries should be admitted to the China field, but he does, in plainer and vastly more expressive terms, indicate what may be expected, apart from massacres and hideous cruelties, to follow the intrusion of women. "The presence of foreign ladies in country districts," he remarks, "where the people are very conservative and altogether unacquainted with foreign ways, is so inexplicable to the natives that such visits should be conducted with the utmost caution and scrupulous regard to decorum." He means

Chinese decorum; and makes it quite plain that unless they seclude themselves and generally demean themselves like native women they cannot avoid horrid misconceptions. To be safe, in fact, they would have to forego the work they do, so that against his will we may claim the author as being in effect on our side in this matter. "It is open to question," he says, "whether such visits are at all advisable in the present condition of China, and whether the good attained is not counter-balanced by the ill effects which sometimes follow; but, seeing that female missionaries are to be found already in most of the provinces, the only thing which can be attempted is to suggest prudent methods, in connection with a condition of things which is not contemplated in the etiquette of the Chinese." There are other things which might be attempted, surely; including a revision of treaties to which no Chinese objection would be likely; and the immediate recognition and admission by all concerned that inland China is no place for women. The author tells us that female missionaries "have little conception of the ideas which are entertained about them, or the language which is applied to them behind their backs, even by those who may seem to offer them a smiling welcome." It is evident that Mr. WALSHE knows, and fair to assume that other male missionaries are equally well informed, and this reflection leaves us to think none too well of the married missionary whose conception of self-sacrifice for his principles permits him to retain, under such conditions and risks, the comforts and pleasures of conjugality. With a perpetual emphasis of sex about them, we read that female missionaries often "rather prefer an audience of males," as being more attentive. It is distinctly unpleasant to speculate as to the explanation of this excessive masculine interest; but much may be hinted in a book like the Rev. Mr. WALSHE's that would be considered out of place in a newspaper. We may quote in conclusion:

"It is awful to contemplate what may be the popular verdict on a young and inexperienced girl . . . more especially when the judges are Chinese men and women, and these of the most ignorant and conservative class, whose minds have been filled with abominable libels against 'foreigners', and who are prepared to confirm by their own experience all that they have heard, and perhaps make some contributions to the sum of calumny by original investigation on their own behalf."

And when, as has so often happened, a swarm occurs, and the passions of the mob have been aroused, the world shudders at the manifestations of the ideas entertained by the Chinese and unwittingly fostered by their victims.

CHINESE MILITARISM.

(*Daily Press*, 2nd February.)

Shanghai, at first a little alarmed at the idea of Chinese Volunteers, has now made up its mind to make the best of them, and to welcome them. They appear in the guise of one disarming a possible enemy by the courtesy and kindness of their reception of him. "When the Chinese Physical Association was first formed," says the *N.C. Daily News*, "we confess to have shared, with most foreigners in Shanghai, a certain amount of distrust in regard to its motives and purposes. As a distinct organization of a military character, with headquarters either in or on the borders of the Settlement, it offered to promote friction from time to time between the

foreign and Chinese authorities here. Events then recent had proved the necessity, in any time of emergency, that all the organized armed forces in the Settlement should be under the direct control of the foreign authority, and there was not too much disposition at that time to regard any help from the natives of this country as likely to be trustworthy. The subsequent course of events and the negotiations leading up to the inclusion of the Chinese Company in the ranks of the S.V.C. have been, however, a testimony to the good faith of those who organized the new body, and to the good sense of the representatives of the foreign community, in recognizing a real desire on the part of Chinese, who have a stake in the Settlement, to take a practical part in the defence of those interests." With the first expressions of that distrust we found some fault, pointing out that the semblance of nervousness could not fail to impress the Chinese, and so enhance any danger that there might be, besides being unworthy of a brave people. It was not in accordance with the spirit of the Maoris who made truce and even sent provisions to their starving foes, and the gallant volunteers of Shanghai should not yield best to any fighting men, even of New Zealand. To say to the new corps of Chinese Volunteers, "you may organize, but you mustn't carry arms," was doubtless a prudent view to take, but it did not look well. In effect, it would seem there are people who are willing to advise the Chinese to "reform," to arise from their sorry state of sloth, and to emulate other peoples, but who shudder at the thought that the Chinese may one day be able to fight instead of run. Yet this militarism of theirs is a necessary step to the reformation advised. A strong, virile people can afford to be honest; the weakling must continue to fight for his own interests by guile and trickery. Our Shanghai contemporary admits that the rehabilitation of the profession of arms will tend to enhance the national self-respect. In its germ, the idea is acceptable, though its form of expression be misleading. So arrogant a people cannot be said to lack self-respect, and we know that it has been a sort of self-respect, a pride of intellect, that has put the Chinese fighting man on a contemptible level of public opinion. In theory—in coirs and places where they sing—there is also a western fashion of sneering at soldiering as a method of barbarism, and in some cases a disposition to put an end to it. Perhaps their success would put European nations into the shoes that China has worn for so long; perhaps it would not; we do not profess to know all the hypothetical results of all the unlikely events that are prayed for or prophesied. What this spirit of militarism will do for China, if properly directed, is not to enhance the national self-respect but to substitute a new variety; and though during the process of exchange it may breed trouble for the foreigner, its effects ultimately ought not to be detrimental to him. Big strong dogs snarl less than little curs, and a self-reliant, independent people are less prone to double-dealing of any kind. To be ready to fight is to be less ready to lie; at least this is a natural assumption. Adopted and encouraged as they now are, the Shanghai native Volunteers will, we trust, progress in more than mere skill at arms. The provincial armies should also have a like leavening effect, and in time all foreigners may realize that China's awakening militarism is not an unmixed evil. In any case, for reasons we have often stated, it will be a long time before it becomes anything to warrant nervousness.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, January 25th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.**BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).****FIRE INSURANCE CLAIM.**

The Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., appeared for the plaintiff in the action—Lai Sui Win v. Union Fire Insurance Company, Limited—and said he had to make a motion which was made *ex parte* of the judgment and was supported by an affidavit which would show his Lordship the reason for moving *ex parte*. The actual motion was that judgment might be entered in that action for plaintiff for \$1,854.30 and costs. The affidavit by Mr. R. A. Harding was read in which it was stated that plaintiff claimed from the defendants the amount stated in respect of the loss sustained by him through fire and which was proportionately covered by a fire insurance policy in that Company.

It will be remembered that defendants agreed to be bound by the decision in the action heard before his Lordship and a special jury, in which the same plaintiff proceeded against the North German Fire Insurance Company to recover a certain sum under a fire insurance policy. In that action judgment was given in favour of plaintiff.

Defendants' reply to Mr. Harding's letter was that they did not intend to instruct counsel.

Judgment for plaintiff with costs was accordingly entered.

Monday, January 28th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.**BEFORE THE FULL COURT.****CONFISCATED MURIADE OF MORPHIA.**

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) moved, pursuant to notice, for an order *ad hoc* calling upon the magistrate, Mr. Hazlewood, to show cause why their Lordships should not issue a writ of *crliturari* to quash a certain order made by the Magistrate who, assuming to act under section 39, Ordinance 2 of 1891, forfeited four cases of muria de of morphia, the property of Mr. William Hoffmann, of Shanghai, which had been seized on July 23rd, 1906, at Tsimshatsui, Kowloon, in godown 21 of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co.

The Chief Justice—Of course we have read the file, but is this going to be opposed?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Since the notice was filed we received a letter.

The Puisne Judge—Have you got your stuff?

Sir Henry Berkeley—We have not got it yet. Before doing so we wish to put ourselves in order by getting the order *ad hoc*.

The Chief Justice—I suppose you want to get the Magistrate's order quashed?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Yes, and it is a question after that of compensation and costs. We have been driven to take this step, but if they give us costs that will be the end of the matter. Counsel then put in the affidavits filed in the case.

The Chief Justice—The only question that occurred to me when reading the papers is as to whether it was not construction as distinguished from jurisdiction.

Sir Henry Berkeley—No. In this case we should have originally appealed, but the man knew nothing about his property having been forfeited until some time afterwards. To give jurisdiction this property should have been opium whereas it is muria de of morphia.

The Chief Justice—That I think is construction.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I possibly.

The order was granted and the appeal will be heard on Monday.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.**BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).****MAN SHUN WO & CO.**

The hearing of this claim for the recovery of \$1,863 said to have been lost on a shipment of birds' nests, was concluded.

After hearing lengthy addresses from counsel on both sides, his Lordship reserved his decision.

Tuesday, January 29th

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.**BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).****WAI WING HONG BANK & SUI WING CHEONG FIRM.**

The plaintiffs in this action claimed from the defendants the sum of \$20,000 due for money lent.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. D. V. Stevenson (of Messrs. Macdon, Looker and Deacon) appeared for plaintiffs, and Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) represented the defendants.

The statement of claim set forth that on various dates between June 3rd, 1906, and February 7th, 1907, the plaintiffs lent to the defendants sums amounting to \$20,000 repayable on demand, and on various dates between November 27th and December 23rd, 1907, it was agreed between the parties that the said loans should bear interest at the rate of \$1 per cent per Chinese month from the respective dates of such agreements until repayment. Written memoranda or promissory notes in respect of the said loans and written memoranda of the said agreements were made by the parties. The plaintiffs frequently demanded payment of the loans and interest, but the defendants declined to pay the sum or any part thereof. On the 9th and 22nd January, 1907, the plaintiffs borrowed from the defendants \$7,000 bearing interest from the said respective dates until repayment, and the defendants were entitled to set off the amount thus due to them. The claim was for the principal sum of \$20,000 with interest till repayment as aforesaid, less the principal amount of \$7,000 with interest till repayment and such other relief as the Court thought fit.

In the statement of defence the defendants admitted the plaintiffs loan of various sums amounting to \$20,000 repayable on demand. They also admitted that it was agreed the said loans should bear interest as mentioned and that plaintiffs had demanded payment, but denied that demands had been made frequently and further said that as a matter of fact they had deposited with the plaintiffs a further sum of \$20,000 on or about May 20th, 1906, such sum to bear interest at the rate of \$1 per \$100 per Chinese month. This sum owing, with interest, up to the date of the writ of summons amounted to \$25,453.33. The plaintiffs accordingly owed to the defendants upon the balance of account between them up to the date of the writ of summons the difference between the sums of \$25,453.33 and \$14,164.10, or \$11,289.13, for which amount with interest from the date of the writ until payment or judgment they counter-claimed.

In reply the plaintiffs stated that with regard to the \$20,000 mentioned in the statement of defence as having been deposited with the bank on May 20th, 1906, that sum was paid by the defendants on behalf of and at the request of Chau Tun-po, one of the partners in the defendant firm, as his share in the capital of the plaintiff bank. Prior to the date in question Chau Tun-po agreed to become a partner in the bank which was about to be established, and to contribute the said sum in that respect. The plaintiff bank began business on or about May 20th, 1906, and Chau was the, and still is, a partner therein. The plaintiff joined issue, and with regard to the counter-claim, denied liability to the defendants.

Mr. Slade stated that the portentous list of pleadings came down to an inquiry as to whether or not the \$20,000 paid by the Sui Wing Cheong firm was a deposit at interest with the Wai Wing Hong bank, or was a payment of the share in the capital of that bank which was agreed to be taken by Chau Tun-po. The Wai Wing Hong bank started business on May 25th, 1906. About that date various people had agreed to become partners, among them being Chau. His share was partly paid for by his own money, and partly through the money of others who

subscribed through him. The mopey was subscribed in a lump sum through the Sui Wing Cheong firm, of which firm Chau Tuu-po was the principal partner. Evidence was called and the case adjourned.

Thursday, January 31st.

IN BANKRUPTCY.**BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).****CHUNG SHUNKOO'S AFFAIRS.**

Another decision was delivered in this bankruptcy, his Lordship holding that the costs of the motion to rescind the order given to Ho Tung to amend his proof must be borne by him. The motion of the trustee calling upon certain creditors to substantiate their claims must be borne out of the estate, also the motion of the trustee calling a meeting, and his motion to restrain the sale of the furniture must be costs of the bankrupt. His Lordship did not feel justified in calling upon Mr. Ho Tung to pay all these costs.

A KOWL ON FAILURE.

Mr. H. R. Matthaei *ex parte* the debtor. Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) who appeared for the debtor presented a debtor's petition and informed his Lordship that Mr. Matthaei had been unable to file an affidavit of assets by reason of his being in hospital, but there was a restraint at the present time on his premises. They were very large premises, containing a great deal of furniture and the assets were estimated at \$2,000, the liabilities being \$28,000.

His Lordship—You want me to make an order without the full statement.

Mr. Grist—Of course, my Lord, the debtor will have to file his statement of affairs. I know there must be a considerable amount of property there, but there is a restraint for eight months' rent, and an action pending for four months' rent.

His Lordship—Have you nothing to say Mr. Wakeman?

The Official Receiver—I don't know that there will be anything left after the landlord has had his share.

His Lordship—What is the rent?

Mr. Grist—\$1,200 a month.

His Lordship—And what is wrong with the debtor?

Mr. Grist—Heart failure.

His Lordship—Can't he make his declaration?

Mr. Grist—No, my Lord. This trouble has got on the man's mind very much.

His Lordship granted the application.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.**BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).****AN OPIUM TRANSACTION.**

The Man Lung firm sue the Wing Fat Yau to recover \$600, money advanced on a case of opium.

Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Mr. John Hastings' office) appeared for plaintiff and Mr. G. E. Morrell (of Messrs. Denys and Bowley) for defendants.

Mr. Dixon stated that the plaintiff handed the amount claimed to the defendants on January 11th in part payment of a case of Patux opium, delivery of which case the defendants had since countermanded. The plaintiff carried on business in Canton, but had a manager here whose duty it was to buy goods and forward them on to Canton. On January 11th he entered into a contract with the defendants for the purchase of a case of opium, received an invoice from them and paid an amount of \$600. The goods, however, were not delivered.

His Lordship—Why were they not delivered?

Mr. Morrell—Because they didn't pay up.

Mr. Dixon—That may be so. The goods cost Taels \$20.6, and we only paid \$6.4.

After hearing the evidence his Lordship allowed judgment for the defendants and costs.

Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, before taking up the Puisne Judgeship in the Straits Settlements, proceeds to Europe on nine months' leave of absence. He leaves by the s.s. *Mongolia* to-day, the 29th instant, and will embark from Blake Pier at 11.15 a.m.

Friday, February 1st.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A HOUSE COOLIE'S CLAIM.

Chan Kai, a coolie employed in the Victoria School, sued Mr. W. H. Williams, the head master, to recover \$9.16 due for wages.

His Lordship (to plaintiff)—Have you got any witnesses?—They are all at the Peak.—Proceeding, plaintiff stated that he was claiming the \$9.16 for wages for the month of December, 1906, and four days in January, 1907. He left his employment because the defendant discharged him.

His Lordship—What for?—Because he disliked me. He had no other reason.

When did he discharge you?—In the latter part of December, but I waited on for my wages.

I want to know on what date he discharged you?—About the 27th December.

And you waited on for your wages? Do you think you can get them after you've been discharged; rightfully or wrongfully?—Yes.

His Lordship—Supposing you were discharged wrongfully, you cannot stay for the rest of your life and claim wages.

W. H. Williams said the plaintiff was engaged for the Victoria Government School from August till December 24th, 1906. On that date defendant discharged him for neglect of duty. He had complained about him on several occasions, and when the school closed for the holidays, plaintiff was warned not to leave the premises without permission, but overlooked that warning.

His Lordship (to plaintiff)—What have you got to say?

Plaintiff—I was on the premises.

His Lordship (to defendant)—Do you know he was not there?

Mr. Williams—I was on the premises all the time, but he was not there.

Plaintiff—I asked defendant for a loan and he would not give me one, but he gave me leave to go and get one.

His Lordship—There will be judgment for defendant.

A DEAL IN RICE.

The Chan Lee sued the Nam Wo firm to recover \$48.40 due for rice sold to the defendant's.

Chan Hoi, manager of the plaintiff firm, said the defendant who appeared, Chan Chuk-lam, was the master of the defendant firm, which shop owed his firm \$48.40.

Defendant—The sign of my business is "Nam Wo Cheung."

His Lordship—Then why have you come here?

Defendant—Because the bailiff handed the writ to one of my factors. I stay at the Nam Wo, but this is a false claim.

Another witness corroborated the plaintiff's story, and at the conclusion of his evidence defendant said he was a paid witness.

Defendant was then called and his Lordship asked—What have you got to say about this debt?—I got rice from other firms, but not from the plaintiffs.

Where are your books?—In my shop.

What is the good of leaving them there? I had no dealings with the plaintiff, therefore thought it was not necessary to bring them.

His Lordship—You'll find it necessary before you've done, I think.

Chan Ah-fui, a foki in the Nam Wo, was then called by defendant.

His Lordship—What do you know about this case?—I know nothing about it.

His Lordship (to defendant)—What did you bring him here for?—If the witness knows nothing about the claim it shows I got no rice from the plaintiffs.

His Lordship—That is not what you were going to start on. You were going to call this man as a witness to say he got the rice, but you just drew up in time. Judgment and costs for plaintiffs.

It is reported that the foreign ministers in Peking have decided about the dredging the entrance of the Peiho and the expenses therefor having been sanctioned by the diplomatic corps, the works will soon be commenced.

A DISASTROUS SQUALL.

MANY LIVES LOST: NUMEROUS SAMPANS CAPSIZED.

A BRAVE CHINAMAN.

Brief as it was, it was a disastrous squall that swept the Colony on January 23rd. At about one o'clock p.m. the heavily clouded sky and the sudden gusts of wind which swept the streets caused pedestrians to hurry on their respective ways, but few it was who were not overtaken by the cyclonic squall that so suddenly burst on storm-swept Hongkong. On shore the damage was trifling, and passengers were only delayed until the deluge of rain had ceased. On the harbour, however, death stalked among the floating population, many of whom must have thought that another typhoon had caught them napping. The storm could not have been of more than ten minutes' duration, but it was accompanied by a blinding rain and a heavy sea which played havoc with the smaller craft in the harbour, and was the cause of many deaths. When it is stated by a number of those who were rescued that their sampans were proceeding on their journeys without any sail set, and completely turned turtle, the force of the sea running can be imagined. It must have been like a tidal bore, and there is little wonder that the numerous craft steering under any sail fell victims to the fury of the gale.

The sampans and junks lying alongside the Praya wall seem to have been the most fortunate in this latest catastrophe. It was only those plying in the harbour that suffered from the fury of the brief squall, but as it unfortunately happened, they were numerous. No reliable figures are ascertainable as yet, but from official calculations upwards of one hundred sampans and eight junks either foundered or capsized, the loss of life being considerable. Cargo floated about the harbour in all directions, while crowds lined the Praya walls looking on the wreckage, as in the case of the great typhoon. The new office of Kowloon-Canton Railway at Taikoktsui was partly unroofed, a heavy section being blown quite a long way. In the vicinity of the Cosmopolitan Dock, many corpses were washed up.

It was fortunate for the floating community that so many launches were available, otherwise the loss of life must have been enormous. When they saw the calamity which had overtaken the small sailing craft, the coxswains of launches steered their vessels to the rescue in all parts of the harbour, and their prompt action saved many lives. At West Point, where the greatest damage appears to have been wrought, launches were plying in all directions, pulling awe-stricken people from the turbulent waters which threatened to cover them. Here, too, the police were as usual to the fore. Scouting danger with the first furious whiffs of the storm, as many men as were available appeared on the Praya to render assistance. Seeing a sampan capsize, Sergeant Parr and Constable Speer obtained the loan of another native craft pulled out to the wreck, made fast to it, and dragging it back a distance of three hundred yards to the Aberdeen wharf, succeeded in righting it. Then they found to their astonishment a woman and two children hanging on to the roof, but both were uninjured. Constables McLean and Purden put off to another sampan floating bottom up, and through their gallant efforts two more lives were saved.

Much has been written of the bravery displayed by Chinese in the recent typhoon, but no more gallant act has yet been published than that of Mr. Ng So-tai, the owner of the steam launch Li On. Taking Sergeant Gordon on board, the two set out into the harbour to the assistance of the distressed, and between them rescued six people from a watery grave. When the launch ran alongside a sampan just overturned, the Chinaman, without divesting himself of his clothing, took a header over the side, and swimming under the capsized craft, pulled two of the crew out and placed them on his launch. It was a gallant piece of work for one possibly bred to the Chinese superstitions concerning drowning, and an act worthy of recognition.

Eastward the gale does not appear to have struck with the same severity, still there is the same sad tale of wrecked sampans and untimely

deaths. Off Jardine's Sugar Refinery a sampan capsized, but all were rescued with the exception of a child, two years of age, whose lifeless body was afterwards recovered by the police. Another sampan passing the Naval-yard without any sails up capsized, and another death was added to the roll before a launch could cast off to the assistance of the crew. Another boat which carried coolies from ship to ship was overturned opposite No. 2 Police Station, and two more men went down. She had a large number on board, however, and fortunately the great majority were rescued.

The promptitude with which the men-of-war in the harbour prepared to help the shipwrecked was commendable, and this action must have saved many lives. British and foreign blue-jackets rapidly lowered and manned pinnaces and whaleboats, the crews pulling with a will to the assistance of many a forlorn crew. The Dock Co. launches, likewise, were early on the scene, and many Chinese owe their lives to the labour of the employees of this Company. Mr. C. D. Silas, who took out the launch C1 succeeded in rescuing five people, while a large number were rescued by the Kowloon No. 1 launch. On the Yau Ma Tei side, Mr. J. Morrison, in another of this Company's launches, succeeded in rescuing seven out of a crew of twelve, but was unable to recover the other five. In order that the apparently drowned might not want for professional attendance, Commodore Williams thoughtfully despatched a torpedo boat, on board of which was two medical men, to cruise round the harbour and render aid wherever their services were required.

With the readiness which always characterises the directors of the Tung Wah Hospital, their launches were speedily prepared to render every assistance, and right well the crews on board worked to rescue their countrymen. When landed, the dead and the apparently drowned were removed to hospital, and on this account the police will be unable to calculate with any degree of accuracy, until today, the death roll.

When he learned of the catastrophe, His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby, his private secretary, was promptly on the scene, enquiring at the various police stations concerning the losses and thus showing his sympathy for our distressed floating population.

INCIDENTS OF MONDAY'S STORM.

That comparatively unknown person in Hongkong, the old resident, has expressed the opinion that a storm like that of Monday has not been experienced in the Colony for over thirty years. The alarm which it occasioned, especially among the floating population, has not yet subsided, and even among the people ashore it is still the topic of conversation, reviving fading memories of the terrible typhoon of September last. Its toll of human lives is certainly greater than was at first anticipated. The police reports show that over seventy people are missing, but Chinese are sanguine that that by no means represents the total loss of life. It is interesting to note that most of those drowned were children, a fact which is self explanatory, though one veteran of 80 was amongst the victims. The returns show that up till yesterday there were 42 women and 29 men drowned.

Stories of gallant rescues still come to hand. P. S. Garrod was successful in saving several people from drowning by jumping into the water and assisting them ashore. P. C. Evans was also instrumental in effecting a number of rescues. An old man and woman each 76 years of age, were rescued by the police in an exhausted condition and taken to the Government Civil Hospital. Ip Wan, a cook on board the launch "Bun Bun," picked up a man clinging to a piece of wood off the Naval Yard Extension. He had been washed from the Naval Yard. Tan Ping, coxswain of the steam launch "Marlow," rescued three men from the bottom of a fishing boat off Shek O, and found thirteen persons on an upturned fishing junk off Waglan lighthouse, whom he took off. No fewer than 19 cargo boats were upset and righted again.

NAVAL POSTMAN'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Sgt. J. Howe, the "postman" of H.M.S. *Alacrity*, probably owes his life to his sailor-like promptitude of decision in an emergency. With

a number of Chinese compradores and others, eleven in all, he being the only white passenger, he left the *Alacrity* in a sampan, with mails for the shore. The big squall caught them immediately they cleared the warship's bows. The sampan heeled over so that green water was pouring in, and a chest of provisions sliding over to leeward held her down. The female crew fell prone, and were apparently invoking supernatural aid. Sergt. Howse, unable to get aft to let go the sheet, which the women had fastened as usual, seized a chopper and with one blow let the sail free, and the sampan gradually righted. The party all reached shore safely and the mails too. On board the *Alacrity* he was not expected to return.

The reports supplied to the police show that the number of deaths from the fatal squall of Monday is 81, other ten having been notified on Jan. 30. Only six bodies have been recovered. There were no fewer than 65 boats capsized, and in several instances no loss of life followed. The number of people rescued by the police and others was 46, 16 of these being by the launch *Marlow*. One of the most remarkable escapes was that of a boy of six, who was at first reported to have been drowned but who was discovered by the *Tamar* boat outside the harbour on a piece of floating wreckage.

THE VOLUNTEERS' BALL.

Needless to say there was a strong muster at the City Hall on Feb. 1st when the gallant Volunteers held their annual dance, which, as usual, was an unqualified success. The skilful work of the decoration committee must have been apparent to all who attended this popular function, and certainly it was deserving of the greatest praise. Passing through the entrance to the hall the massive pillars leading to the stairs were observed to be tastefully entwined with creeper, while a mass of shrubbery filled up the gaps between, the grim muzzles of a number of Maxim's peeping over this. Pot plants lined the sides of the staircase, the balustrades being covered with greenery out of which peeped vari-coloured electric lights. On the pillars at the first landing two small brass yacht guns, duly burnished, pointed at the arrivals, most of whom lingered to inspect the mod. sand bag fort in which more maxims were visible. In this there was also a searchlight projector, built at the Volunteer Headquarters, which illuminated the wall opposite, on which was displayed the banner of our citizen soldiers. This was surrounded by the Volunteer colours, red, yellow and blue, while the Union Jack hung at either side. Above the searchlight in the fort were numerous Volunteer flags, central among them being the banner with the device of the corps, "Nulli Secundus in Oriente," a motto which every unit of the corps acted up to in the conduct of the ball. In each corner of the first landing stood a diver's dress, and from the face glass of the helmet a bright light shone forth, lighting the guests up the second flight of stairs to the ball rooms. On entering St. Andrew's Hall it was noticed that the same array of flags covered the walls and drooped from the ceilings, while each pillar displayed its circle of shining daggers beneath which was arranged a stand of boarding pikes. St. George's Hall presented a similar appearance, and in a passage way which led from one hall to the other the band of the Middlesex Regiment, by whom music was provided, took their stand. Here again the Volunteer colours were prominent, and drooped in maypole shape over the bandstand. The old Chamber of Commerce room was reserved for supper, and the bar and cardroom, as on the occasion of the previous dance, was in the library.

The Volunteers looked spic and span in their white uniforms, and the effect of the picture presented during the dancing was heightened by the presence of a number of their comrades-in-arms, the regulars, in the more gaudy uniforms of their regiments. It now remains to be added that the various committees in charge of the arrangements did the work assigned to them well, and their efforts, coupled with the hearty cooperation of the corps, made the ball a great success. Those responsible were:—Dance Committee—President, Major A. Chapman; Hon. Secretary, Lieut. J. T. Hayton; Asst. Secretary, Corp. A. E. Wright. Supper and

Wines.—Lieut. M. S. Northcote and Sergt. Majors Rodger, Andrew and Logan, and Gunners Biden and Petley. Decoration—Capt. Crake, Sergt. Major Gloyn, Staff Sergt. Avenall, Sergts. Henderson and Bevan, Gunners Sorby and Quick. Invitation—Captain D. Macdonald, G. P. Lammert and T. Skinner, Cloak and Card Room—Capt. D. Macdonald, Lieuts. Forsyth and Ross, Trooper Dowbiggin, and Sapper Frost. Dancing and Music—Captains W. Armstrong and Wood, and Sergt. Murphy. Dancing commenced at 9 p.m. when about 800 were present, and the programme was continued with much zest until the early hours of morning.

THE HON. MR. F. H. MAY.

Though no official announcement has yet been made on the subject, it was freely reported in the Colony on Jan. 28th, on apparently unimpeachable authority, that the hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., had been offered, and has decided to accept the post of Lieutenant Governor of Ceylon; and further, that Mr. May will be proceeding to Ceylon about the end of next month.

Mr. May's departure from the Colony where he has graduated in the service of the Crown will be very generally regretted, for he has earned the unqualified respect and esteem of the whole community. Mrs. May, we need hardly add, shares to the full her husband's popularity, and in the social life of the Colony she will be as greatly missed. But when reward comes to a meritorious public servant the chorus of congratulation is loudest and the appointment is generally recognised as well deserved promotion for an able, conscientious and hard working official.

We have the best of reasons for stating that the "rumour" has adequate foundation, being informed, however, that "the matter is not yet finally settled," but that an official intimation may shortly be expected.

THE MATILDA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

By the will of the late Mr. Granville Sharp of this Colony who died in 1899, the residue of his estate was given and bequeathed for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a hospital in Hongkong. This was to be "in most loving memory of Matilda" (his wife), "resident in this Colony from 1858 to 1893, who died, full of love for everyone, on the 22nd of August of the latter year." The testator desired that the hospital should be built on the Peak, for British and American patients mainly, and for Europeans in general with certain reservations. The highest medical skill and all the comforts of a nursing home were to be provided wholly free of charge for the deserving poor, that is, for those who by their lives and characters have deserved well of the community, but whose straitened circumstances rendered them unable to defray the heavy expenses ordinarily attendant upon severe illness. Further, the testator declared: "I desire that the hospital shall in all things be considered to be established as an absolutely religious and evangelistic institution, and that every effort be made to direct the minds of the patients to the Gospel."

"The Matilda Memorial Hospital" has been erected on a most admirable site on Mount Kellett, with accommodation for thirty patients. Dr. J. Herbert Saunders is in residence as Medical Superintendent; and his sister, Miss Sanders, as matron, with an efficient staff of British nurses. The hospital is managed by a Board of Governors, of which Rev. F. T. Johnson is hon. sec. On Sunday last, the 27th ult., a private and informal dedicatory meeting, attended by over a hundred residents was held at the hospital, and was presided over by the testator's brother, Mr. E. Hamilton Sharp, who fully explained the objects and scope of the hospital, and expressed the earnest hope that all present would report to the doctor or hon. sec. any truly deserving case that came under their notice.

HONGKONG TYPHOON RELIEF FUND.

Mr. H. Hunter, the Hon. Treasurer, acknowledges with thanks the following subscriptions:	
Already acknowledged	\$270,347.27
Proceeds of Photographs taken during the Typhoon—presented	
\$874 and £1. 11. 6 \$13.93 ...	887.93
Nobels Explosive Co. Ltd. £25 ...	223.8
Hongkong Pictorial Postcard Co. a/c Sale of Typhoon View Books ...	127.3
Members of the Craigengower Cricket Club ...	100
His Hon. Sir Fielding Clarke £5 ..	44.24
Subscribed by the passengers on board the s.s. "America Maru" ..	39.70
A. Murray Rumsey ...	25
C. M. S. Hongkong Station ...	15.83
The following amounts received from the Tung Wah Hospital:	
The "Sheungpo" Newspaper Office 4th to 7th subscriptions ...	1,025.36
Chinese Merchants in Penang ...	995.10
Chinese Merchants in Moulmein ...	418.32
Chinese Merchants in Tsingtau, additional subs.	200
"Kwok Szapo" Newspaper Office, Canton, additional subs.	197.55
Ko Ki Yow, Singapore ...	100
Shun Cheong, Shanghai ...	50
Fook Kee ...	50
Yu K'n Yan ...	40
Man Hing Cheong ...	15
Sun Tai Chan ...	15
Yn Cheong Tai ...	15
Kwong Fook Cheong ...	10
Kwan Wo On ...	10
Wing On Loong ...	10
Kwong Sing Loong ...	10
Kwog Tak Cheong ...	10
Kwong Hin Cheong ...	10
Kwong Fat Hing ...	10
Wing Tai ...	10
Wing Hing Cheong ...	10
Unknown ...	10
Hing Lee ...	10
Mow Shing ...	10
Yee Loong ...	5
Tai Tak ...	5
Hip Wo ...	5
Ho Fung Cho ...	5
Wing Yu Cheong ...	2
The Chamber of Commerce in Chefoo, 2 subs.	1,253.92
The "Sheungpo" Newspaper Office, 8th. subs.	40
Unknown ...	10
A friend ...	.50
Interest from Chinese Banks on the Typhoon Relief Fund ...	98.31
Cost of Coal refunded by the steam launch "Kwong Fuk" ...	24
Rickshaw-hire and Chair-hire funded by Committee ...	11
Cost of cakes, &c. refunded by Committee ...	55
The Tung Wai Kook at Peru ...	2,000
The Chinese Merchants in Cairns, Queensland, £79 ...	701.52
The Kwong Shui Hospital at Bangkok ...	200
Chinese Merchants in Maryborough £21. 8. 6. ...	189.13
Cantones Merchants in Taington, additional subs.	150
Kwan Ok Kok at Honolulu ...	10
Fu Yan Wui ...	16.70
The "Sheungpo" Newspaper Office 9th. sub.	15
The Christian Association at Yaumati ...	13.50
Less, Discount on Chinese sub-coins received from Tang Wah Hospital ...	50
	\$279,952.96

At the offices of the Public Works Department on January 28th, Kowloon Island Lot No. 1,203 situated at Yaumati, containing 290,000 square feet and having an annual Crown rental of \$2,330, was sold to Messrs. Leigh and Orange on behalf of a purchaser for \$72,700, being \$200 above the upset price.

HONGKONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Hongkong Benevolent Society was founded in September, 1889, "for the purpose of rendering assistance in cases of sickness, want, poverty or distress arising from time to time amongst persons other than members of the Portuguese or Chinese community in the Colony." It is an attempt to introduce method and organisation into charitable efforts; and to secure by careful investigation of all cases that help shall chiefly be given to the most needy and the most deserving. The relief given varies with the individual cases. Some are granted passage money to enable them to get back to home lands; some are helped to pay their rents; certain children, left orphans and destitute, are being maintained at school; employment is found for not a few who have been stranded in the Colony; and a little temporary assistance is given to many, helping them through a crisis and sometimes towards a fresh start in life. The income of the Society is derived from subscriptions and donations. The condition of membership is the subscription of \$12 per annum. This gives the privilege of recommending cases for investigation by the committee. Any sum paid to the Society, other than by way of subscription, is deemed a donation. A donation of not less than \$5 entitles the donor to a life membership of the Society.

The subscribers for 1906 were—Mrs. Badeley, Mrs. Murray Bain, Mr. T. Barton, Mr. Beavis, Dr. Bell, Lady Berkeley, Mr. Bowdler, Mr. F. B. Bowley, Mrs. Brewin, Mr. Frank Browne, Mr. H. Butterworth, Mrs. Caldwell, Mrs. Duncan Clark, Mr. de Champeaux, Mrs. Chatham, Mrs. Cruickshank, Mrs. Trenebald Davis, Mr. Haver Droeze, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Ebmer, Mr. Fletcher, Mr. G. Friesland, Mrs. Fullerton, Mrs. Fuchs, Mr. C. L. Gorham, Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Hancock, Mrs. Hett, Mrs. Von Der Heyde, Mrs. Hickling, Mrs. Hoare, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mrs. Jones Hughes, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Jessen, Mrs. Patrick Jones, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Justi, Messrs. Kadoorie & Co., Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Barnes Lawrence, Mrs. Master, Mr. H. N. Mody, Mrs. G. C. Moxon, Mrs. Parr, Mrs. Peter, Mrs. Piercy, Lady Pigott, Mrs. R. Saint Pierre, Mr. F. Salinger, Mrs. Saunders, Mrs. Savory, Miss Tiebs, Mrs. H. W. Slade, Mrs. Marcus Slade, Mrs. Stedman, Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, Mrs. Gershon Stewart, Mr. Murray Stewart, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mrs. Swan, Mr. E. Swart, Mrs. J. C. Thomson, Mrs. Tomkins, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Wells, Mr. J. Whittall, and Mrs. Paterson Wright.

Donations and augmented subscriptions were received from H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, Mrs. Irving, (balance of school fund), W. G. Humphreys & Co., on behalf of Messrs. Gosage & Co., proceeds part fine for local infringement of their patent; Mrs. Slade, Mr. G. Friesland, Mrs. Moxon, Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, Mr. C. L. Gorham, Mr. T. F. Hough, Mr. Murray Stewart, Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mrs. Denison, Mrs. Osborne, Mr. G. Woods, Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Francis Clark.

The following were added to the list of life members (which now numbers 16):—

Mr. W. Goetz, Mr. A. Bryer, Mrs. Dickson, Mr. R. Fuhrmann, Hon. W. J. Gresson, Dr. A. P. Wilder.

The seventeenth annual report, as submitted at the meeting yesterday included the following paragraphs:—

During the year fourteen cases were brought under the consideration of the Committee, and assistance was given in eleven cases, as shown in the brief outline of cases attached.

Eighteen other cases received relief through the Rev. J. H. France, M.A., to whom the thanks of the Committee are again tendered for the substantial help he continues to render, by investigating cases, and by rendering temporary immediate assistance to such as he considers in need of this. It is matter for much regret that on account of lack of funds recently it has been possible to place only \$15 a month at Mr. France's disposal, instead of \$25 monthly previously available, since this reparation of the Society's operations is probably one of the most practically important sides of its work.

The Society's funds have been at a low level most of the year owing to unusually heavy

demands in the early part of it for payment of passages to England which it seemed impossible to refuse. Consequently, in later cases less substantial help to deserving cases has been available than the Committee would gladly have rendered.

The cases that have been given relief during the past year fairly well illustrate all the phases of the Society's operations. The large proportion of the money that has been at disposal has been spent on passages but considerable sums have also been devoted to the maintenance of certain orphan children who are dependent on the Society, to monthly allowances during shorter or longer periods to several widows, and to the finding of temporary board and lodging for not a few who were in sore straits. Mrs. Gershon Stewart left the Colony in April, and her place on the Committee, with the office of Hon. Treasurer, was taken by Mrs. J. Hastings. Mrs. Peter also left in March, and Mrs. Hoare, who had returned, was invited to re-join the Committee. On the departure of Mrs. Dickson, the President, in May, Lady Berkeley, Vice-President, was elected to be President, and was succeeded as Vice-President by Mrs. Badeley. With great regret and deep sympathy the Committee took leave of Mrs. Hoare and Mrs. Barnes Lawrence in the peculiarly sad circumstances in which they returned to England.

In conclusion, the Committee, while gratefully acknowledging the much generous help accorded to them during the past year in their efforts for the relief of the needy, respectfully urge upon the Hongkong community as a whole the urgent need that exists for a more widely extended financial support of the Society in the important work it has undertaken. A reference to the epitome of cases dealt with during the year will afford ample evidence that this is no haphazard charity, every case being personally investigated by members of the Committee, or through the reference Committee, before any application is dealt with. But lack of funds has seriously crippled the Committee's efforts during the year 1906; and, in now demitting office, they beg from the public for their successors a more liberal provision of the wherewithal to satisfactorily meet the demands of the Society, which are increasing with the increasing European population.—JEAN B. THOMSON, Hon. Secretary.

The Rev. J. H. France submitted a report of the "Guarantee Scheme," saying, in part: During the year 1906 there was, in Hongkong, very little of that type of destitution for which the Guarantee Scheme was intended to provide, and the calls upon the guarantors were in consequence fewer than in the previous year. In all five cases were dealt with, and only two out of the number were seamen. These men being of African blood could not be admitted to the Sailors' Home, and so an arrangement was made by which they were admitted to a boarding house in Lascar Row on the understanding that they were to receive European food. Employment was found for each of these men on a river steamer. Of the remaining three, one found employment and got away from the Colony, one was sent to Australia, whence he had come, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire kindly giving him a passage on payment of a small sum for food, and the third was allowed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. to work a passage to Canada, where he is certain to find work.

A statement signed Dorothy Hastings, Hon. Treasurer, showed that \$2,205.71, was expended in relief, as against only \$31 for administration costs. This left a balance in bank of \$2,856.

The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., presided at the annual meeting held in the City Hall on January 29th. There were present Lady Berkeley, Madames May, Hickling, Atkinson, Kruger, Badeley, Saunders, Thomson, Marcus Slade and John Hastings, Hon. Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Hon. Dr. Atkinson and the Rev. C. H. Hickling.

The CHAIRMAN (having read the report)—I think the Society is to be congratulated on the good work it has done during the past year, and I hope the Hongkong public will respond to the appeal that is being made in the report for more generous assistance. There is no doubt that this Society ought to be supported, and perhaps it is not supported as well as it should be. I trust that the publication of this report, and of the balance sheet showing how slender

is the means now at the disposal of the Society, will have the effect of inducing members of the community to come forward with donations and subscriptions (applause). I beg to move the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

Mrs. HASTINGS seconded the motion.

Mr. HICKLING—May I ask, Sir, how many cases have come within the scope of the guarantee fund, and also what was the balance at the beginning of the year as compared with the balance at the end of last year?

The CHAIRMAN—The balance carried over from 1905 was \$988.03, and there were five cases dealt with under the guarantee scheme.

Mr. HICKLING said he would like, as the sole representative of a generous public, to support the passing of the annual report. He took it that the attendance of the public was never very large at annual meetings of societies of this kind, unless there was going to be a row. When things were going smoothly the public believed that the funds were being administered properly, and usually left the committee severely alone at its annual meeting. Probably they were not equal to the strength of taking out an umbrella that morning, and that had added to the paucity of the attendance, but there were points in the report, which as Mr. May had said, should recommend themselves very strongly to the general public. Although the Society was crippled by the payment of so many passages, it had saved the community a very considerable amount of trouble in cases of which he knew, in which people, perhaps foolishly, had brought themselves into the position of being dollarless in this Colony. If such people had been allowed to continue here they would inevitably have lost their self-respect, and would have gone into the ranks of the destitute very speedily. He believed sending such persons home meant sending them to those who would undertake to help them into their former positions, or into better ones. The persons concerned were undoubtedly economical and careful in their payment of passages away, and it was a pity they were so far crippled for funds that other cases perhaps could not be dealt with as adequately as the judgment of the committee would have directed. But notwithstanding that a considerable amount had been given the Society, still the special appeal made did not seem to have fallen on very willing ears; perhaps during the latter part of the year the Society had been injured in the same way as all philanthropic institutions had in this Colony, through the appeal for a special typhoon fund. He knew that hospitals, for instance, were many thousand dollars down this year for no other reason than the special call made, and they would have rather a pitiable tale to tell at the end of the financial year. Therefore he trusted that the committee would not be altogether discouraged in not having obtained more personal subscribers. Now that we had an American Consul who was in sympathy with the objects of the Society he trusted that through his efforts the American community here would be made considerably more responsive than in the past. At the same time it looked as if one of the mainstays of the Society must be some special effort made once every year, something in the form of an entertainment to which the public would respond. It would mean a great deal of trouble and bother which ought not to be put on the committee, who mainly ought to exert their efforts to the administering rather than to the gathering of funds. He thought if the new committee considered the matter, something might be done in that way so as to fill the coffers of the Society for a year, or perhaps two years. The balance sheet of the Society seemed to show that the public was either forgetful of the good work done, or did not appreciate it, but he thought the special needs he had mentioned militated against the balance being anything like what it was last year. If the Benevolent Society had a balance of a few thousand dollars it would make people tighten up their purses a little more, but in its present state they should respond to the appeal, for there was no society in Hongkong doing better though utterly unobtrusive work, and those who saw most knew how very careful and judicious was the administration of funds (applause).

The CHAIRMAN—I might mention before putting the report that the guarantee scheme will be continued this year. His Excellency the Governor, with his usual generosity will make himself responsible for five, and Messrs. Raymond and Hewett for one each.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the appointment of the following ladies to the committee for the current year:—Mesdames Atkinson, Badeley, J. Hastings, Hickling, Kruger, May, Peter, Saunders, Marcus Slade, Thomson, Turner and Lady Berkeley.

Mr. HICKLING seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the appointment of Drs. Atkinson and Clark, the Rev. J. H. France, the Hon. Mr. Hewett, the Rev. C. H. Hickling and the Rev. F. T. Johnson as a reference committee.

Dr. ATKINSON seconded the motion, which was carried.

LADY BERKELEY proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon. Mr. May for his attendance. This was carried.

Mr. MAY thanked the ladies very much, and assured them that it was a great pleasure for him to meet them and help them in such a small matter.

Dr. ATKINSON proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies who sat on the committee during the past year. The public was much indebted to them for their labours, and he thought the meeting should not close before such a vote was proposed.

Mr. HICKLING seconded the motion, which was carried and ended the business of the meeting.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

The annual meeting of seafholders in and subscribers to St. John's Cathedral took place on Jan. 29th in St. Paul's College. The Rev. F. Johnson presided over a fair attendance.

The Chairman pointed out that the brass tablet to the memory of the late organist, Mr. A. G. Ward, had lately been erected under the window of the North transpt.

The balance sheet was submitted, Dr. Clark the hon. treasurer explaining that the church in common with the rest of the community had suffered during the past year from a lack of dollars. Their income had gone down somewhat. During the year they had spent \$188 more than they had received, but fortunately they had a balance in hand which was more than sufficient to meet it. The increase in expenditure had been mainly in the direction of salaries, \$911 having been spent more in wages and salaries in 1906 than in 1905. They had also found it necessary to increase the insurance on the Cathedral in order to cover its full value. The only other increase as compared with last year was in special collections. During the year there had been six special collections as compared with three during 1905. The general fund suffered in consequence, being \$171 less than in 1905. As a church body they would have to consider some means of slightly increasing the income or slightly reducing the expenditure. Their balance was now \$2,495.

The report was adopted on the motion of the Hon. Dr. Atkinson.

The following six lay members were re-elected to the Church Body. Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Dr. Clark, Messrs. W. Armstrong, A. Bryer, G. Hastings and E. Ormiston, while Mr. J. C. Peter was re-appointed auditor.

The Chairman followed with a speech reviewing the events of the year. He paid a high tribute to the life and work of the deceased Bishop, made a feeling reference to the loss sustained through the death of Captain Barnes Lawrence and also made appropriate allusion to the recent death of the former Bishop of the Diocese.

In reply to Dr. Atkinson, the Rev. Mr. Johnson stated that no steps had yet been taken with regard to the erection of a tablet to commemorate Bishop Hoare, but the matter would be considered shortly by the Colonial Church Council.

Votes of thanks to the choir and all who assisted in church work concluded the proceedings.

DEPARTURE OF MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH.

A number of friends assembled on Blake Pier on January 29th to bid adieu to Mr. Sercombe Smith, who for the past eighteen months has been acting Colonial Secretary of Hongkong. Mr. Smith left by the s.s. *Mongolia* on nine months' leave of absence, after which he will return to the Straits Settlements as Puisne Judge. He entered the Civil Service as a cadet in 1882, passing in 1886; and has held many acting appointments in the Hongkong Civil Service being Police Magistrate in 1895, Puisne Judge in 1896, Colonial Treasurer in 1897, Colonial Secretary in 1898 and reverting back to the Police Court as Magistrate in July of that year. From 1904 he again occupied the position of Puisne Judge until the Hon. Mr. May left the Colony on leave when he succeeded him as Colonial Secretary. Besides being an intelligent and capable official Mr. Sercombe Smith was a keen cricketer, and the services he rendered Hongkong in many interport matches will not readily be forgotten by his comrades of the Cricket Club. His many friends, while regretting his departure will join us in wishing him a pleasant voyage home, and future prosperity in his new sphere of labour.

PEDESTRIANISM.

"GO AS YOU PLEASE" RACE.

The "Go as you please" race promoted by the Victoria Recreation Club took place on the 26th January. It will be remembered that a desire was expressed here after the last international walking match at Shanghai that something should be done locally to inaugurate a competition on similar lines, but the only organised proposal was that which emanated from the V.R.C. and there was a difficulty about getting sufficient judges for a walking contest. Therefore "go as you please" was ordered, and 20 entries for this were received. The preliminary trials of the past week showed up those who were not in the best of training, and only ten came forward to toe the line on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. A large crowd assembled to witness the start from the Cricket ground, where Mr. R. W. Pearson, the starter, got the men away well together. The competitors were: J. G. Kinnaird, A. Currie, J. Alves, N. H. R. Alves, D. Soares, R. Stevenson, T. Kring, A. J. Darby, A. Skinn, L. Corp. Gee and Private Mill.

The course set was:—Start at Cricket ground, thence along Garden Road, to Kennedy Road, along Kennedy Road to Wongneicheong Village, up to Bowen Road, along to Robinson Road and Park Road as far as Rose Villas, turning into Bonham Road and Caine Road and back to Upper Albert Road and Garden Road, finishing past Government House. Judges were posted at different centres. They were J. E. Watson, R. W. Pearson, G. H. May, M. A. A. Souza and A. G. Rocha; F. Lammert judging the finish.

The route to be traversed was one that would thoroughly test the staying qualities of the men. They all went off in a cluster and climbed the first hill at a steady walk. Then the leaders began to stretch out, and Kinnaird, who was fancied by many, found Gee a persistent challenger, while Darby looked like business all the time. A few minutes after 4 o'clock Mr. Lammert timed the first three arrivals as under:

Lance Corp. Gee, 62½ min	...	...	1
J. D. Kinnaird, 63½ min	...	...	2
A. J. Darby, 64 minutes	...	...	3

Considering the difficulties of the route the performance must be regarded as extremely good. There was some nonsense talked about the winner having had the advantage of a cyclist pace maker, but in a "go as you please" race such protests would seem misplaced.

H.E. Viceroy Shum, it is now reported, has placed himself in such prominence in Peking by his offer, the other day, to make a tour of inspection of the Yangtze riverine provinces in search of anti-monarchists and secret society men, that an Imperial Rescript has been issued commanding His Excellency to proceed to his new post in Yunnan without further delay.

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

January 29th was prize-giving day at St. Stephen's College, Hongkong, and an interested attendance of ladies and gentlemen was present to witness the proceedings. The Colonial Secretary (Hon. Mr. F. H. May) was announced to preside and distribute the prizes, but a prior engagement compelled him to be absent. The Ven. Archdeacon Bannister occupied the chair and was supported by His Excellency Wu Ting Fang, and the Rev. E. J. Barnett, while among those present were the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Rev. J. H. France, Rev. Dr. Pearce, Rev. G. A. Bunbury, Brother Silvester, Mr. S. W. Tso, and Dr. Wilder, U. S. Consul General.

The Warden read the annual report in which, after a sympathetic reference to the late Bishop Hoare, it was stated that during the past year, the fourth of their existence, there had been 133 scholars in attendance. To meet the requirements of those who were looking forward to a University career classes had been added in Mechanics, Hydrostatics, Political Economy and Latin. With the alteration and re-erection of outbuildings during the mid-summer holidays it was found possible to fit up a temporary laboratory in which the three highest forms were receiving their first lessons in Physics and Chemistry, subjects which were popular. Physical drill had been in abeyance through sundry untoward circumstances. Nevertheless recreation had received its due attention. The playground had been improved and enlarged by about one-fourth. In April College sports were held and appreciated. The boys' steady practice in cricket had for first time been rewarded with a fair share of success. In the final examinations just closed the tests had been fairly severe in the several forms, and there had been keen competition for the higher positions. A scrutiny of the figures revealed the fact that (including the sometimes absent boys) 25 per cent of the whole school failed to obtain an average of 50 marks; just 25 per cent gained over an average of 75 marks and the other 50 per cent of the boys passed between these extremes. The tests applied, except in the very lowest classes, was an examination in ten written subjects, resulting as follows:—Chau Kwan Lam stands Dux of the College with 84.5 per cent. In the V Form two boys tied for first place with 81 per cent, viz; Fung Man Sui and Wan Yik Shing. A similar incident, illustrating the keenness of the contest, occurred in Form IV. Chan Chung Yat and Cheung Fu shun dividing the honours of premier position with 79 per cent. Cheng Yuen Lin with 91 per cent leads in Form III, closely followed by Yip Lin Fong with 89. In Form II Lam Tung is an easy first with 84 per cent, his chief competitor, Wei Wing Lok, having been laid aside for a fortnight with sickness. Tam Ting Wing, with 84, and Chau Tsui Wai bracketed with Lau Ting Lu (75 per cent) stand first in Forms IA & IB respectively. After allowance had been made for the fact that the foregoing were records of their own examinations, they could not but regard the result as indicating honest work both by masters and boys. They were reminded by His Excellency, Sir Matthew Nathan, twelve months ago, that St. Stephen's College had not yet seen any of its scholars through the Oxford Senior Examination. The reminder was doubtless both necessary and salutary. To-day this requirement had been satisfied. When but two years and a half in existence the College passed two boys in the Junior and one in the Preliminary section. At the end of three and a half years, in July last, the Juniors of last year were advanced into the rank of Seniors, while two others passed the Junior and three the Preliminary stage, seven in all, and all Chinese. One of the Seniors, Chau Kwan Lam, obtained the A.A. degree, and was mentioned under English language as having passed in composition in addition to Grammar and Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Ts'o Shin Cheung, the other Senior Candidate, though too old for the degree, passed well, in six subjects. Of the Juniors, Ts'o Shin Fan satisfied the examiners in five subjects, and Wan Lu Shing in seven, including Higher Mathematics. The Preliminary passes were Chan Ying Wing, our No 1 on the school roll,

Wan Yik Shin and Wei Wing Hon. From the detailed account received from Oxford it appeared that seven candidates passed out of nine recommended. The percentage of passes (including the nine candidates) worked out as follows:—Geometry 67; Scripture Knowledge, Arithmetic and Algebra, each, 77; English History 38; Political Economy 100. Such results would be considered creditable in an English school (applause). Their new building so long talked of and desired had not yet arisen, except on paper. Still to have plans prepared, and approved by the Building Authority, to hold some money in hand for this purpose and to be backed by an interested and sympathetic body of Chinese gentlemen provided an earnest of more substantial results to follow in the near future. It required no expert evidence to prove that their need for extended accommodation was both real and urgent. Until the projected extension was consummated their work must lack both satisfaction and completeness. Then, when their buildings were finished and they were more firmly settled in commodious premises, they would look to see His Excellency's suggestion of last year carried into effect, so that through affiliation with a home University it should be possible for students to gain literary degrees in Hongkong, which should have a recognized value throughout the Empire. It would seem that they were bound to work toward some such development of the education question for the Chinese. Many of their students looked forward to other than a commercial career. Awakening China needed men with Western knowledge, and although decree followed decree with confusing contrariety it seemed that the test of scholarship leant in a Western direction and it was to satisfy that test that we must aim. Although the changes they in China were not all set in the same course and the practice of to-day might be reversed to-morrow still in educational matters the conduct of the year's examination in Peking, despite its defects, was not without its lessons. Papers were set in Philosophy, Politics, Mathematics and Science. Some of the examiners were those who had studied abroad and had obtained University recognition. Candidates were allowed to choose the language in which they should record their answers. Some who were more conversant with English than with Chinese used the former means of communication and succeeded in securing their diplomas, without any test of knowledge in Chinese. A further significant feature of this year's examination was marked by the fact that Christians and Confucians sat side by side in the examination hall without fear or favour. Both alike were received in audience by their Imperial Majesties after the results were published. Still again, Western influence might be traced in the decision that it was not necessary, as in former years, to regard the successful examinees as expectant officials, but rather that having obtained their knowledge they should use it as seemed best for the good of themselves and their country. From a change so complete—from the elaborately composed thesis in Chinese to a studied disregard of the ancient classics, and to an indifference concerning knowledge of the mother tongue they might expect, and perhaps wish for some reaction. Yet the most conservative cannot hope that such subjects as those mentioned above would ever fail to find a place in the country's government examinations. The men who were to help in the development of China were the men whom China needed, and as they had opportunity it seemed their duty to prepare those under their care along the line which should be best both for themselves and the cause they hoped to serve.

The teaching staff was strengthened at the beginning of the year by the addition of Mr. A. L. Nairn, B.A., and in May by the arrival of Mr. G. A. Hancock, B.A., who was followed by Mrs. Hancock in September. Miss Williams also joined after the mid-summer holidays. On the other hand, Mr. Lewis Byrne, M.A., who kindly delayed his holiday for six months to suit their convenience sailed for home in July. Miss Fletcher, who had given her service for three years, found it necessary to resign that she might transfer her help to another department. Mr. W. E. L. Harkness was called away last month somewhat suddenly on private affairs,

and they would be pleased if he were able to resume his position in the College. Meanwhile they heard by telegram that another master was leaving Melbourne about this time to take charge of form IV. Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Ng Tin Po continued at their posts. The staff included six English and three Chinese masters. The Council's thanks for donations were tendered to the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.¹, The Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Dr. Wan Fuen Mo, Messrs. S. W. Tso, Wei On, Lo Cho Sun, Lo Pan Kei, Chan Chin Fung, Yau Shui, Chau Siu Ki, Wong Sui Lung, Chan King Ting, Fung Shui Sam, Chau Kam Wing, Lau Chin Ting, Wong Wing Chiu, Cheng Wo Hin, Ng Pak To, Lo Shuit Po, Cheng Man Po, Cheung On Lan. The never-failing thoughtfulness of the Chinese parents and guardians had always been a source of encouragement to them.

Archdeacon Baunister said that he thought it was only right to tell them before the prizes were awarded that they were disappointed in one or two directions. They were disappointed at the weather and they were disappointed at, and deeply regretted, the absence of His Excellency the Governor who had written expressing his regret. His letter read: Dear Mr. Barnett,—Mr. Fletcher has handed me your letter of the 27th December and I am desired by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that in view of the multiplicity of the engagements for the near future he does not consider it advisable to make any more and therefore regrets he will not be able to have the pleasure of attending St. Stephen's prize-giving. They deeply regretted that they had hoped that instead of His Excellency taking the chair that they would have been able to have welcomed a great friend of that institution in the person of the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, but his letter explained that when he had promised to take the chair at St. Stephen's he had overlooked the fact that the meeting of the Benevolent Society at which he had also promised to preside took place at the same hour. He expressed his regret for the inconvenience which this would cause. They all regretted Mr. May's absence. There was another cause for regret that the prizes had not arrived. They were somewhere on the way between Singapore and Hongkong and would be here in the course of a few days. The successful competitors would receive certificates for their work and also for the distinctions in the Oxford Examinations.

The Ven. Archdeacon then presented the prizes; and afterwards made a few remarks. They had had, he said, a demonstration of the work that St. Stephen's College was doing in the education and the intellectual progress of the Chinese young men of Hongkong, and although he was a member of the governing body of the College he felt it right to congratulate the masters and the students on the excellent show they made after only four years' existence as a collegiate institution (Applause). The work, he knew from personal observation, indicated the determination of the masters and the students to excel in the lines of education that had been adopted for that college (applause). The whole world was interested in observing the progress of Western learning in the Chinese Empire, and it was hoped that as the years went past and as that institution became more stable in its positions that it would take an ever increasing and a greater part in the work of advancing Western education amongst the Chinese young men of Hongkong. He did not wish to say anything in praise of that education. It had come to be recognized in the East that the advance of the Asiatic nations must be along that path. If the nations of the East were to stand side by side in the service and work of the world then they must, to a certain extent be equipped by means of Western education. The whole world had observed the progress of Japan.

China and her people have been noting the position that Japan has reached along this pathway and as far as he could read the signs of the times the Chinese nation and the Chinese youth were determined to acquire the best in Western learning in order that they might better maintain the great history of their people. (Applause) Proceeding, he said the boys of that college

were as keen in their intellectual development as in the physical. Their record in the field during the past year had been a worthy one and showed that the boys of St. Stephen's College could hold their own with the boys of other schools in the Colony (applause). Referring to the need for an enlarged building, he said they must look to the co-operation of the parents and their Chinese friends who were so liberal for the completer equipment of that institution. The examinations showed what he as a lover of China and the Chinese never doubted that the sons of China were able to take their places side by side with the boys of other nations (Applause). Concluding, he said he thought it was essential for the wellbeing of the Chinese race that a note of warning should be uttered with reference to the displacement of Chinese language and Chinese literature from the examinations of their country. He for one felt that the best interests of the Chinese would not be served by entirely abandoning that part of the intellectual machinery, the Chinese language and literature, which had sufficed in the past to equip men aye, and women too in China to the great duties of life. Therefore he would urge upon those young men not to neglect the ancient language of their people or the ancient literature of their people. In equipping themselves for the work and business of life they must not limit themselves to western knowledge but equip themselves in the knowledge and in the history of their country. In this way he had no doubt that when they were called upon to take their places in the development of their great country they would acquitted themselves well and do their duty to the land of their birth and to the race of their forefathers (applause).

His Excellency Wu Ting Fung addressed the students in Chinese and afterwards, at the request of the Chairman, said a few words in English.

He said—When Mr. Barnett asked me to come here about ten days ago, it was to speak a few words to the students in Chinese. I was told not to exceed twelve or fifteen minutes and I have now spoken for fifteen minutes but, if I am to act as my own interpreter you must excuse me if I take a little more time. I have been telling these young men what great advantages, indeed privileges, they have in studying at college like this. I have also told them that when I was a boy I also went to college; I did not mention the name of the college because there is a good reason for not doing so. I told them that when I went to college I had not the opportunity of learning from so many books as they have. In my days of boyhood (I won't tell you how long ago that was)—laughter—the books we were given to learn from were very elementary. The teaching-staff was small, and I don't want to throw discredit on my own college but the books were few and many of the subjects that the headmaster has mentioned in his report were not known to me when I was a student. I was also telling them that they should take full advantage of the learning that is now offered and do their very best in their studies. One has still a lot to learn after one leaves college to go out in the world. The knowledge that a student receives is not sufficient, he has to learn many things when he starts in life, but he can lay a good foundation here (applause) that will stand him in good stead in after life. I told them that a good moral character was a very important thing for them. A boy may be very clever, very learned and well informed, but without good morals he will not succeed in life. This is the gift of my remarks to the students in my own language and I hope that you will all agree with me. (Applause).

Three hearty cheers were given for the Chairman, H. E. Ting Fang, and the Headmaster and teachers and the proceedings were brought to a close with the singing of the national Anthem.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Antonio Paulo Guterres, first clerk, Mercantile Marine Office, Harbour Department, has been suspended from the exercise of his office for corrupt practices with effect from the 24th instant, pending the decision of the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding his dismissal from the Government Service.

**ELLIS KADOORIE CHINESE
SCHOOL SOCIETY.**

**PRESENTATION OF PRIZES BY THE
GOVERNOR.**

The Hongkong College of the Ellis Kadoorie Chinese School Society presented an unusually animated appearance on Jan. 31. The exterior of the new buildings was viewed by many interested in the work of the Society for the first time and the favourable impression which it created did not vanish with a closer acquaintance with the building. Flags and peculiarly Chinese decorations gave a picture-que touch to the attractive interior, while the large number of bright looking Chinese boys and the presence of many European ladies and gentlemen proclaimed an interesting event.

His Excellency the Governor had promised to attend and present the prizes to the successful pupils and naturally the scholars were agog with excitement. His Excellency, accompanied by Mr. Ponsenby, was received with manifest pleasure by the assembled company. Occupying seats on the platform were Mr. E. A. Irving (Inspector of schools), Messrs. W. Braidwood (headmaster), E. S. Kadoorie, Lau Chi Pak, Ho Kom Tong, Faung Wa Chun, while among the others present were Archdeacon Bannister, Rev. C. J. Hickling, Dr. Sebres, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Pearce, Bro. Sylvester, Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Dr. Wilder (U.S. Consul General), Messrs. G. Piercy, E. J. Moses, E. Howard, A. J. Raymond, Mrs. Kadoorie, Mrs. Braidwood, Mrs. and Miss Rodger, Mrs. J. Rodger, Mrs. Bryson, Mrs. Milroy, Messrs. Ip Oi Sang, Chua Yen Pin, Choi Tz-Yik, Leung Kin On, Pan Yan Chuen, Ho Yam Nam, Chau Foon Ng. and Ho Hoi Wan.

Mr. Braidwood, before the commencement of the formal proceedings, on behalf of the Society and also on behalf of the teaching staff and students, took the opportunity to tender their hearty congratulations to His Excellency on his restoration to health and strength. (Applause).

The report for the past year was then read by Mr. Braidwood. It included the following paragraphs:

The average daily attendance was 319.03 compared with 267.69 in the previous year—an increase of nearly 80%, while the grant rose from £407 to £478.

The weakness of the European staff mentioned in the School Inspector's report has since been remedied. Our teaching strength was augmented by the engagement of two additional masters, Messrs. Nicolson and Barlow. Mr. Nicolson, who came directly from home, is a M.A. of Glasgow University—a trained and certificated teacher. Mr. Barlow, who was engaged locally, had already some experience of teaching in the Colony.

The new buildings although not entirely completed were occupied in September. With the additional class rooms on the top floor and this commodious hall we have now sitting accommodation for 600 pupils. The basement which forms a covered play ground sheltered alike from sun and rain has proved a much advantageous source of comfort and pleasure.

With an increased stock of apparatus and a plentiful supply of chemicals we have been able during the past year to work all the experiments in Hygiene contained in the Manual recently published for use in the schools of the colony. The older pupils were allowed to assist in working these experiments and this tended to rivet their attention and stimulate their interest.

The examination for the shield and prizes offered by His Excellency the Governor was held on 3rd December. A College team entered for the shield and the prescribed number of senior competitors for the prizes, but the results have not yet been declared.

In accordance with precedent, the headmaster's examination was held as nearly as possible at the close of the Chinese year. The number of pupils present at the examination was 320. Briefly stated the percentage of passes are as follows:—Reading 97.4%, Arithmetic 67.00, Composition 81.00, Dictation 54.00, Writing 100.00, Colloquial 88.58, Geography 83.00, Grammar 81.00, History 94.00, Trans. C. E. 89.00, Trans. E. C. 92.00, Euclid, 90.00, Algebra 87.00, Mensuration 81.00, Science 83.00, Hygiene 87.50.

Compared with last year's results there is an improvement in seven subjects, viz.—Arithmetic, English composition, Grammar, History, Euclid, Algebra and Mensuration. The apparent weakness in Orthography, as shown by the results of writing to dictation, is due to the increased difficulty of the Class Readers.

The principle according to which students who make the maximum attendance in the course of the year are rewarded by receiving free education for a period of 12 months continues to give satisfactory results. Classes were taught on 243 days during the year, and 82 students were present on every occasion while 61 were present on 230 or more days.

The Library which had now been in existence for 2 years is still a centre of attraction for the older lads, for whom G. A. Henry's historical narratives seem to possess the greatest interest. Few new books have been added during the past year and some of a character suited to the younger pupils would be welcomed.

As military drill has been discontinued by request and some form of physical exercise is a sine qua non for youths, arrangements are being made for the introduction of exercises in dumb-bells and Indian clubs. If a suitable instructor be found classes will be formed at the beginning of the new term. With the advent of Mr. Barlow fresh life was infused into the College Football Club and a team entered for the schools' shield.

I am pleased to have this opportunity of placing on record the able and willing assistance rendered at all times by the various members of the staff and to acknowledge the hearty co-operation of the President, Hon. Secretary and members of Council. To the Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital, the Committee of the Po Leung Kok and the large number of gentlemen, too numerous to mention individually, who have so generously contributed to our Scholarship and Prize Fund we tender our sincere thanks for this practical evidence of their interest in our educational work and welfare.

With this commodious addition to our former building, with a staff comprising 4 European masters, 6 Anglo-Chinese assistants and 4 Vernacular teachers and with a President and Council willing to do everything in their power to promote the progress and comfort of the students, we may reasonably hope to realize the wish expressed by your Excellency at our last prize-giving—that you may see an attendance of 600 students in this institution.

The Prize List included the following:

Blake Scholarship (850), Chan Yan Tong; Ho Kom Tong Scholarship (Senior) (85), Lam Kwok Te; Ho Kom Tong Scholarship-Junior (\$25), Tsu Chit Po.

The special prizes were awarded as under:—Dux Boy, Lau Iu Chung; Hygiene, Chan Yan Tong.

It will be remembered that Sir Matthew Nathan was responsible for the attention now being paid to hygiene as a study, and it is mildly amusing to encounter this remark in the School Inspector's report:—"Hygiene should not be dragged unnecessarily into alien subjects." Apparently there is excessive anxiety to please His Excellency somewhere.

The School Inspector recommended a grant at the rate of 3%.

His Excellency distributed the prizes, the proceedings being invested with more than ordinary interest by the polite and dignified manner of the youthful recipients. Then followed a very piquant entertainment provided by the younger boys giving recitations in English, in which one or two showed remarkable proficiency. The applause of the audience must have been very gratifying to the budding linguists.

His Excellency afterwards addressed the assembly. He said:—Mr. Braidwood, I thank you very sincerely for your kind congratulations. Ladies and gentlemen, I am much touched by the manner in which you endorsed Mr. Braidwood's congratulations. I assure you I am very pleased to be back again among you and to be at my work. In my turn I congratulate the Society upon this fine addition to the school buildings. I also congratulate them on the fact that there has been a greatly improved attendance at the school. This is particularly satisfactory because it does not follow a reduction in the attendance

at any scholastic establishment in the Colony. The number of applications for admission to Queen's College is still greatly in excess of the number for whom accommodation can be found there. The attendance at the Government District Schools is also increasing and I have not learned that the attendance at any of the other schools has fallen off. I draw the conclusion that there has been a considerable impetus to education in the colony in the last two or three years and this is a conclusion which gives me the greatest possible pleasure. If when I leave the colony in the future, which I hope is remote (applause) the educational standard is higher than what it was when I arrived here it will be a source of the greatest gratification to me. The numbers at this school are greater than at any other of the scholastic establishments in the colony with the exception of Queen's College. I wish I could say also that its efficiency was second to none, but that is not quite the case, for the grant was given last year not on the highest basis, not on the basis of thorough efficiency, whereas in two schools—in the Diocesan School and the Italian Convent—the grant was given on that basis. The reason why the highest grant was not given is explained in Mr. Irving's report to be that the efficiency of the lower classes was not what it should have been, and I think his decision not to give the highest grant on this ground was a right one. If the lowest classes are not thoroughly efficient the standard of the highest classes will no doubt, in the course of time come down. I am glad to say that steps, which I have no doubt will prove to be satisfactory ones, have been taken to remedy the difficulty which was reported by the Inspector of Schools in June, and that the most is being done to make the teaching arrangements in the lower classes of the same high standard as the teaching in the higher classes. There are several points in the report just read that have given me much satisfaction. I am glad that the wave of militarism has spent itself and that I am received to-day by the students in their sensible and picturesque clothes instead of in "military" uniforms. (Applause). There is no one that believes more in patriotism and the fulfilment of patriotic duties than myself, but at the same time there is no one that sympathises so little with militarism or the wish to be soldiers without any idea of the object in this. I am glad also that an addition has been made to the school curriculum by adding algebra and Euclid to it. The increasing requirements for engineers and such like professional men in South China requires to be met by an increase in the mathematical education in the schools of Hongkong. In the report that was read by Mr. Braidwood it was stated that the results of the examination in hygiene were not yet known. They are known to me and I am able to say it gives me much gratification to say that Mr. Liu Iu Chung has been bracketed for first place in the advanced course. He is a son of Mr. Liu Chin-pak. (Applause). It will be remembered that last year I gave my special prize to the boy who had done best in one of the weakest subjects in the school in the hope that it might serve as a stimulus for that subject to be better studied in the future. It was given to the boy who had done the best in the geography course. The report this year shows that there has been a great improvement in the papers sent in at the examination. I hope there will be still greater improvement next year. I marked my sense of the importance of the subject by giving a prize to the boy who has done best in it at the last examination. There is one subject on which I would like to offer congratulations. I have not distributed dictionaries as prizes as I did last year. They always remind me of the class of education of a certain Miss Sharp in a Minerva institution kept by a Miss Pinkerton. More suitable prizes I am glad to see have been found this year. (Applause).

Mr. Braidwood said—Your Excellency, On behalf of the Society I have to thank you for your presence here this morning, especially at a time when I am sure there are many calls on your time. I thank you also for your advice which you have given both to the students and teachers, and I am sure that we

will take this advice to heart and hope to profit by it in the course of the year.

Cheers for His Excellency, the ladies and the teachers were given, bringing the proceedings to a close.

The subscribers to the Prize Fund were: Blake & scholarship trustees, Messrs. Ho Kom-tong, E. S. Kadoorie, Ellis Kadoorie, Li Chin-fan, Ho Fuk, Mok Cho-chuen, Wan Cho-choi, Fung Wa-chiu, Sin ak-sau, Lau Chupak, Leung Yan-pi, Leung Keu-on, Tong Leung-chan, Au Hin-tin, Lau Poon-chiu, Lau Chin-ting, Chin Yu-tin, Tang Kwan-pok, Chan Sin-ki, Kwok Siu-lan, Choi Tse-yik, Choi Kau-NG, Messrs. Shing Woo & Co., Mr. Lo Lai-chuen, Fung Lau-shau, Kwok Yik-ting, Li Sau-shan, Tong Lai-chuen, Tsang Yut-kai, Yu Yuk-chi, Lo Sui-ki, Wong Kit-lan, Poon Yau-chuen, Yang Yik-ting, Ip Shan-eh, Ip Shun-kum, Mok Man-chung, Wong Tsuk-lam, Leong Chak-chow, Wong Lai-chuen, Ip Oi-shan, Pang Suk-un, Ip Fut-son, Sin Wing-hai, Messrs. Ming Kee and Co., Kelly and Walsh, Ip Shun-chuen, Committee of the Poo Leung Kok; The Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital, Mr. Chau Cheuk-hing, and Mr. Leong Sing-wun.

ANGLO-CHINESE DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

On January 31st Mr. E. A. Irving, the Inspector of schools, presided at the annual prize distributions of the Yaumati, Saiyingpun and Wantsai School. There was a large attendance of scholars and their parents. The headmasters of the schools first read their annual reports.

Mr. Morris of the Saiyingpun School said:—“Mr. Irving, to-day is a ‘Red Letter’ day in the history of the School, as this is the first time that the prize distribution to the most successful students of the district schools has taken place here. The staff remains practically the same as last year.—assistant masters and myself—except that there has been a change of probationers, and I take this opportunity of publicly thanking my assistants for their hearty cooperation in raising the school to its present flourishing condition, and in bringing the year’s work to a successful issue. Great strides have been made in the attendance during the year under review. The number of new pupils admitted since last March is 142 and the average attendance which was 44 in 1905, has risen to 97, or an increase of 120 per cent. The highest monthly average was attained in October when it reached 106. At the entrance examination to Queen’s College in February last, two of my boys were placed first and second. Similar to last year, the early morning hours were continued after the Summer vacation and the series of excursions, which were then originated, have been continued. They have proved quite as successful and altogether number more than 30. They have included the most important factories and all the chief places of interest in the Colony, where it has been possible to go. During the Summer bathing parties were arranged for the purpose of teaching swimming and many of the boys are now able to acquit themselves very creditably in the art.

“The examination in Hygiene held under the auspices of the Board of Education took place here in May, and of the four candidates from the staff of this school, two obtained first class certificates, one a second and one failed. In the football league we have not done well. Hitherto, there has been no ground available for practice, but latterly, the Inspector of Schools, interesting himself on our behalf, has secured the use of a piece of ground in the immediate neighbourhood on two days per week.”

Mr. Curwen, of the Yaumati Schools, followed:—

“It is my good fortune to record substantial progress all round, and I think it may safely say that the erection of the school has proved a boon to Chinese parents and guardians in Kowloon who wish to give their children an education in English. Staff:—This has been increased by the arrival of Mr. Parkin, a trained certificated school master from home, otherwise there are no changes to record, and the work of the entire staff has been performed

to my satisfaction during the past year. Fees and attendance:—Fees have increased from \$1,800 to \$3,500, practically an increase of 100 per cent and the average attendance has risen from 95 to 171, an increase of 86 per cent. The highest number in attendance was 218 in May and the lowest 95 in January. Empire Day was celebrated in the usual way and during the year excursions have been made along the track of the Railway, to the New Waterworks, etc. Hygiene:—The teaching of this subject has been continued during the year and the subject matter has been illustrated by experiments. Five masters gained hygiene certificates from the Board of Education in London, and five masters sat for teaching certificate in hygiene granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute, but the result of that examination has not been declared. Sport:—The boys take a great interest in the Football League but the results have not been commensurate with the amount of energy expended. Mr. Parkin has devoted much leisure time to training the boys, and possibly his efforts will bear more fruit in the near future. Before concluding I should like to point out that the question of enlargement will have to be considered shortly. As you are aware the school was built to accommodate 200 pupils and the average number paying fees during the last nine months has been 203. (Applause).

Mr. Young Hee, of the Wantsai School, said:—“It is with much pleasure that I present my report for 1906. On the 1st January, there were 126 names on the School Roll. On re-assembling after the New Year vacation, 93 out of 126 former scholars returned, and 78 out of 81 new applicants were admitted, amongst whom were two free scholars from the Tanglungchan School, and six only were sent from Queen’s College with admission cards. During the course of the year, 15 more new boys were enrolled, thus bringing the total number of scholars for the year to 216, being an increase of 28 upon that of 1905. Of these, 7 left during the year. The number on roll at the end of the year was 110. The school has been open on 251 days, and the average daily attendance was 145.5. No less than 21 boys registered the full attendance for the year. With one or two minor exceptions, the new syllabus has proved most successful, for at the entrance examination into Queen’s College at Mid-summer, many of the boys were able to gain admission into a higher class than they were in previously. Brushwork drawing has been taught as an additional subject, and very satisfactory and encouraging results have been obtained. Great aptitude has been shown by the boys for this study. Simple physical exercises have also been taught during the cool seasons. They have proved very popular with the boys and must have had a beneficial effect on their health and physique. When the proposed new covered shed is built, more attention will be paid to physical training generally. The school made many excursions to various places of interest in the Colony during the past year, which have proved most instructive, and rendered valuable assistance to the teaching of local geography and English colloquial. At the beginning of the year, 4 boys from the school competed for the Queen’s College scholarships, of whom three were successful. Two of them, however, succeeded afterwards in securing appointments as student interpreters, and only one of the successful competitors took advantage of the scholarships won. The school did not escape the disastrous effects of the typhoon of September last, as two of the brightest scholars lost their lives on that memorable day. The loss was deeply deplored by the whole school. Many more were withdrawn through their relatives being rendered destitute. The whole school responded with open heart to the call for assistance on behalf of the distressed with the result that over \$600 was subscribed towards the relief fund.

Mr. Irving then distributed the prizes, after which he said it was the school’s loss that H. E. the Governor was unable to be present. Their regret, however, in this respect would be sealed up by the feeling of satisfaction that His Excellency was once more back in the Colony and restored to health and vigour (applause). The speaker regarded it as a great honour to have taken the Governor’s place and

remarked that it had been a pleasure to him to present the prizes to the scholars, especially when it came to presenting the splendid set of Shakespeare’s works to Yueng King-chan of the Yaumati school, the boy who did the best work in the three schools during the year. This was a magnificent prize, which any library might be proud of, and Mr. Irving hoped that the winner would take great care of his books. The speaker then proceeded to give his hearers some advice regarding the way books should be taken care of, remarking that the veneration the Chinese had for the art of writing was illustrated by the careful way in which they picked paper up containing writing and stored it away in boxes. In the west our veneration of the art could be seen by the way we took care of our books. Those who were successful in winning prizes should take great care of them and always be careful to wash their hands before using them. The speaker then went on to say that the expressions of good, very good and even excellent referred to about the schools were understood by the Government to be relative terms, and the boys should understand them in that connection. They had only begun to get a knowledge of English, and it was for them to say if they would increase that knowledge, thereby going along the road which led to Queen’s College where they could continue their studies for three or four years. He had seen the work of the boys, and was able to say that some of them had a future before them if they continued their studies. China just now required hundreds, even thousands, of well-educated men, and in a few years she would want a greater number, but he could not say where they were coming from as those educated in the Colony now could only be counted in dozens. The inspector concluded by congratulating the master of each school on the successes which had been gained by their pupils.

Mr. Curwen proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Irving for his attendance. This was carried by acclamation, and the proceedings ended by one of the small scholars reciting a verse of “God save the King.”

DIOCESAN SCHOOL.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Diocesan School took place on Feb. 1st and was attended by a large and interesting gathering. His Excellency the Governor was present and performed the principal ceremony of the occasion. Mr. G. H. Piercy, headmaster, presided, and amongst those present were the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Mr. R. A. B. Ponsonby (private secretary to H.E.), Mr. E. A. Irving (Inspector of Schools), Rev. F. T. Johnson, Rev. J. H. France, Rev. Dr. Pearce, Rev. A. J. Stevens, Rev. A. J. Barnett, Dr. Wilder, (American Consul General), Dr. Sebree, Rev. C. Bone, Mr. W. D. Braidwood and others.

Before commencing the proceedings Mr. Piercy on behalf of the teaching staff and scholars offered congratulations to His Excellency on his restoration to health.

The Headmaster then read the report, in which, after a feeling reference to the loss sustained by the death of Bishop Hoare, he stated: The enrolment during the year was 314, the average attendance was 222.5 against 195 last year, and an increasing number of boys did not miss an attendance on the 235 school days. In April 5 boys entered the public competition for medals and prizes offered by the Bellios Trustees; we carried off the first three prizes and bracketed with 2 boys from another school for the fourth prize. At the Oxford Local Examination held in July, 3 boys passed the preliminary, 4 the junior and 5 the senior. This is the first occasion on which we have had more than 3 successful in the senior. During the autumn the Government lent us the excellent lantern and splendid slides prepared under the auspices of the League of the Empire in England for use in the Colonies, and Mr. Brown ably delivered a series of 13 geographical lectures to very appreciative audiences from the Diocesan Girls’ School, Fairlie Girls’ School and our own upper classes. He wrote in his report: “The pupils’ interest in the homeland has been aroused and their knowledge

of it considerably increased. These I take it are the objects of the lantern lectures. My satisfaction is based on the letters I have received and the eagerness with which the children looked forward to the lectures." In December the new Belilius Trustees offered \$10 as a prize to the boy who wrote the best answers to questions set by the Inspector of Schools on the subject matter of the lectures; this was awarded to M. Leitao. On 2nd December 17 boys sat for the advanced hygiene examination and a team in accordance with H.E. the Governor's arrangements entered for the elementary hygiene shield; we have not yet had the results. Six senior boys entered for Pitman's short hand 2nd grade examination; the results will be known later. The Inspector of Schools visited us on the 17th December, inspected the lower classes and examined the higher by written papers; his report is appended. There have been some changes in the staff during the year. Our senior assistant master, Mr. Sykes, went home on 7 months' furlough after 7½ years' excellent work; he is due to return shortly. Mrs. Arnold was granted 3 months' leave on urgent private affairs from 1st October; we were fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Drummond, who has had considerable experience in teaching and has done good work. An additional vernacular teacher was engaged in March; the Anglo Chinese assistant died after a short illness and Mr. Li Pat took his place. Last season the school team won the championship of the Hongkong Schools' Football League, and the shield found its first resting place with us. In this competition 23 points were gained out of a possible 24, and only one goal was scored against us. The Football league having drawn away the attention of other schools from cricket, we went further afield for opponents and so had some pleasant and sometimes successful games with the second elevens of the Civil Service, Police and Craigengower. Mr. Brown has taken an active interest in sport and our successes are largely due to his fostering care and training. The bathing season was brought to an abrupt conclusion by the September typhoon, so our annual aquatic sports did not take place. The boarding accommodation of the school has been fully occupied all the year; the health of the boys has been good excepting the last few weeks, when colds and sore throats have been too common. Our thanks are again due to the medical staff of the Civil Hospital for their kind attention in cases of accident and sickness, and to the following gentlemen for providing prizes:—Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Rev. F. T. Johnson, Messrs. L. Arnold, F. B. L. Cowley, Fung Wah-chun, J. Gubbing, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, A. Rumjahn, Sin Tak-fan, F. Southey, Wong Po-chuen. (Applause).

The report of Mr. E. A. Irving, Inspector of Schools, stated that the staff consisted of Mr. G. Piercy, headmaster, eight assistant European masters and mistress, and two Chinese masters. The discipline continued to be all that could be desired. The plan of separating the Chinese from the English speaking boys in parallel divisions of the lowest classes, appeared to be working well. Latin:—The subject was started in the year under review. I have had personal experience of teaching the text book used (Sonnerschein's *Ora Maritima*) and I can only express disappointment at the results achieved. The ability to translate from English into Latin at the end of a year is practically nil. The teaching of this very valuable subject requires reconsideration. I suggest that, if it is taught, more time must be given to it; which time might be gained by teaching the non-Chinese boys Latin grammar in the place of English grammar. Grant:—I recommend a grant at the highest rate of 35/- and report that the school is thoroughly efficient.

His Excellency, after distributing the prizes, said:—Mr. Piercy, I thank you for the kind congratulation you have tendered to me on behalf of the school. Ladies and gentlemen, in coming here this morning it was natural that I should think of the previous occasion when I gave the prizes at this school. Then I was supported by the Bishop of Victoria. It was a source of gratification to me and it was no doubt to you that Mr. Piercy should have made a sympathetic reference to our lost Bishop

The loss has been a great one to the Colony and to this school. The loss has not been complete, for the Bishop left behind a memory and an example a memory of a beloved personality and an example of a life well lived and a death well met. Turning to the report which had been read by Mr. Piercy no doubt it struck a few as it struck me that it must have been very gratifying for him to be able to present such a record of good and continuous progress. The school has followed the tendency of schools in Hongkong to have an increased average attendance, the increase in this case being 14 per cent for last year. And what is more important, the school continues to be thoroughly efficient and earns the Government's greatest grant. It has had more than the usual number of successes at the Oxford Local Examinations and also at the examination held by the Belilius Trustees. And then, although it has hitherto not known it, it has won the shield for the elementary hygiene competition (Applause). The report of an outside examiner is most satisfactory, not to say enthusiastic. Mr. Stevens strikes me as being a perfect Mark Tapley among examiners, deriving satisfaction even from information given in wrong answers. (Laughter). Less enthusiastic but on the whole favourable is the report of the Inspector of Schools. He mentions among other things that there has been progress in the study of history, a subject which was weak in the school, and in order to encourage the study of which I have presented and shall continue to present a special prize (Applause). There are two points of unfavourable criticism in Mr. Irving's report, and I trust the management will see fit to give attention to them. One is that promotion is sometimes too rapid. It seems very obvious that a boy ought not to be promoted to the higher class until he is thoroughly well up in the subjects of the lower class. The other unfavourable criticism is with regard to the English composition of the higher classes. It seems to me a truism that a school of this class should turn out boys capable of writing clear good English. Then there was a small criticism, which I wish to make, that is whether the management is well advised in starting the study of Latin in the school. It can hardly be hoped that the school will turn out sound classical scholars. It might be better instead of acquiring a smattering of Latin that they should acquire a more thorough grounding in the other subjects of the curriculum. It has sometimes seemed to me even at home that England might better face trade and other rivalries if a less proportion of the time of the youth of the country was spent in construing Caesar's description of Gaul and the tale that Aeneas poured into the ear of Dido. These are the only remarks that occur to me on the report which has been presented. It only remains for me to congratulate the masters and staff on a successful school year and to wish them a pleasant vacation. (Applause).

The Rev. Mr. Johnson expressed thanks to His Excellency for being present and for his reference to the deceased Bishop.

The Governor announced that the Ho Kom Tong scholarship for this year had been awarded to R. J. Hastings.

Cheers for the King, the Governor, the visitors, and the Headmaster and teachers were given, and with the singing of the National Anthem the Company dispersed.

HONOURS AND PRIZE LIST, 1906.

Oxford University Local Examinations:
Senior : J. Crolius, H. Anderson, W. Drude, F. Siemsen, W. Thom. Junior : F. Brandt, R. J. Hastings, S. Jex, P. Whitfield. Preliminary: Chiu Yang-tze, Lai Shiu-on, W. Sinn.

Belilius Medal and Prize Examination:—1st, J. Crolius, silver medal and \$50; second, R. Drude \$20; 3rd, R. J. Hastings \$15, 4th, P. Whitfield \$10.

Belilius Prize for Visual Instructions:—M. Leitao \$10.

Ho Kom-tong Scholarship:—R. J. Hastings.
Class Prizes:—**VII Standard:** (1) R. J. Hastings, silver watch. (2) P. Whitfield, Macaulay's History of England.

V Standard: (1) Chau Chu-yan, "The Universe."

V Standard (1) F. Leitao, "Boys' Own Annual" (2) F. Ablong, "Highway Pirates."

IVA Standard: (1) J. Whitfield, "River Adventures." (2) J. A. Smith, "Sports and Pastimes."

IVB Standard: (1) Chiu Yan-tak, "Life of Nelson." (2) Leung Kwan, "Lion of the North."

IIIA Standard: (1) T. Rowan, "Pioneer Stories." (2) J. Sinn, "Deeds that won the Empire."

IIIB Standard: (1) Wong Tso-yee, "Norwegian Pictures" (2) Tam Si-yau, "Clive in India."

IIA Standard: (1) P. Abesser, "Chatterbox." (2) J. Kelley, "City at the Pole."

IIB: (1) Mok Cheuk-sang, "Conquest of Peru." (2) Mok Shiu-ming, "With Columbus."

IA Standard: (1) H. Ramjahn, "Bravely Won." (2) Lee Hong-cheung, "Crown of Success."

IB Standard: (1) Peter Wong, "Polar Exploration." (2) Cheung U-pui, "Two Barchester Boys."

Special Prizes:—**VII Standard:** Scripture, J. C. Frewin, silver watch. Shakespeare, P. Whitfield, "Tennyson." Mathematics, H. Anderson, "Icelandic Pictures." Shorthand and Bookkeeping, H. Anderson, Writing-case; Latin, J. C. Frewin, "Macaulay's Essays."

VI Standard: Scripture, Chiu Yan-tak, "Modern Mechanism." Mathematics and Chinese Translation, Chau Chu-yan, fountain pen.

V Standard: Scripture, M. Leitao, fountain pen. Mathematics and Latin, A. Strangman, "Lamb's Tales." Chinese Translation, Cheung Tuk yan, "History of China."

IV Standard: Scripture, Chiu Yan-tak, "Pilgrim's Progress." Scripture, B. A. Parker, "Val Dairtry." Algebra, J. Whitfield, "George Stephenson."

IIIA Standard: Scripture, F. Brewster, "Bible Stories."

IIIB Standard: Scripture, Wong Tsoi Nuttall's Dictionary."

IIIC Standard: Map and Brush Drawing, P. A. Maasberg, writing-case. Chinese, Mok Hing-chu, "John Halifax, gentleman."

II Standard: Scripture, (a) J. Mackenzie, "Modern Engineering." (b) Mok Hing-cheung, "Self-Help." Chinese, Leung Chiu-ling, "Discoveries and Explorations."

I Standard: Scripture, (a) Wong Ki-kwan, "Modern New Testament." (b) J. Wong, "Sunday." Chinese, Kwok Man-pau, "Fights for the Flag."

Music, G. Brockell; Athletics, W. F. Wong, cricket, et-bat.

BELILIUS PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The annual prize distribution in connection with this school took place on February 2nd, when Mr. E. A. Irving, the Inspector of Schools, presided. A large number of pupils was in attendance, and numerous visitors. Proceedings were opened by a Chinese girl who displayed her knowledge of English in a neat little address of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Irving and the visitors. The senior girls then gave an exhibition of physical drill, this being followed by an excellent musical programme, the performers on which acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to their instructors.

The headmistress, Mrs. Dutcher's annual report was then read by Mr. Irving. The following is part thereof:—The numbers on the registers at present are 103 in the English division as against 90 at the corresponding period last year and 303 in the Chinese division. Of those admitted during the year, fully 50 per cent were girls over 12 years of age, which seems to show that there is a growing desire on the part of the girls themselves for an English education. The important study of English composition which presents so many difficulties to native children, has received a great stimulus from the generous offer of Mr. R. E. Belilius. When on a visit to the school last May, Mr. Belilius kindly signified his intention of providing annually five prizes of \$10 each to be awarded for the best compositions on a subject chosen by the Inspector of Schools. There has already been a marked improvement in the ordinary exercises of the classes competing. To encourage amongst purely Chinese girls a more distinct and audible tone of voice in reading and

speaking, the Trustees of the Bellios Fund have, on the advice of the Inspector of Schools, kindly offered \$25 in prizes to be competed for next summer, as elocution prizes. A sum of \$25 has this year been granted by the Government to help the Prize Fund, which up to now has been dependent on the kind subscriptions of various gentlemen interested in education. At the examination in December, this school sent up six candidates in the advanced section, and a team of five in the junior division. The results are not yet to hand.

Mrs. Irving then presented the prizes won during the year, after which

Mrs. TUTCHER said:—Mrs. Irving, Ladies and Gentlemen—The report just read makes it unnecessary for me to say anything further regarding the routine work of the school, and it is now my pleasant duty to thank you all for your presence here to-day, and specially Mrs. Irving, who, in the unavoidable absence of His Excellency the Governor, so kindly consented to come and present the prizes! As you have just seen, His Excellency has again honoured us with the gift of a very handsome prize, this time a work basket, which has been awarded to the pupil who most distinguished herself in needle-work. Both she and her fellow-pupils are deeply touched by this further proof of His Excellency's kind remembrance of the school, and we all additionally regret that His Excellency could not be here to present his gift in person. We also desire to tender our hearty thanks to the various gentlemen who so kindly furnished the funds for the remaining prizes, and whose names are too numerous to mention here. Scholarships, which take the form of one year's free education, have this year been awarded to Lily Fok, Lo Lai Wak, Fung Fun Lin, Kwan Yiu Yau, and Chau So. In conclusion I have only to thank the various members of the staff, who have so harmoniously and conscientiously co-operated with me during the past eight months. Holidays for Chinese New Year will be from now till Monday, 4th March.

Mrs. Irving was then made the recipient of a handsome basket of ferns, and in returning thanks for same remarked that it had afforded her great pleasure to present the prizes. She was sure all present had enjoyed the programme of music provided, and as for the action song by the little Chinese girls, "the washerwoman and the chickens," it was simply fascinating, and no doubt all would have liked to hear it several times. The report disclosed a most satisfactory state of affairs, and the speaker congratulated the girl who had won His Excellency's special prize for hygiene.

Proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Irving and cheers for the headmistress and the visitors.

THE PRIZE FUND.

The teachers and pupils wish to thank the undermentioned gentlemen most heartily for their liberality in contributing to the Prize Fund:—Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, Gibb, Livingston and Co., Hughes and Hough, Jardine, Matheson and Co., Johnson, Stokes and Master; Lane, Crawford and Co.; Linstead and Davies; Sam Wang Co.; David Sassoon and Co.; G. Murray Bain; Chau Sui-ki; A. Forbes; Fung Wa-chun, A. Haape; Ho Pook; Ho Tuung; W. G. Humphreys; H. Humphreys; H. E. R. Hunter, Dr. Kew; Lau Chu-pak; Lock Hing; Lung Foo-Thomas; A. S. Mihara; H. N. Mody; See Woo; Murray Stewart; Tak Cheong; W. Wilson and H. P. White

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton January 26th.

A CHINESE CONTRACT.

The local engineer Chan Lun Tai entered into a contract with the Chinese Government some two years ago for the reclamation of the Ho Pak new bund and is said to have received from the Sin Hau Kuk from time to time considerable sums of money amounting to \$80,000 taels on account of work done and materials supplied. The time limited in the contract for the completion of the work had expired long ago and extension of time was granted to the

contractor on several occasions in order to enable him to complete the reclamation, but up to the present time the work has not been finished. Recently Viceroy Chou Fu and Shen Taotai went personally and inspected the reclamation works. They discovered that only a portion of the work had been completed and that it was very badly done. His Excellency was very much annoyed about the way the contractor had conducted the work. His Excellency gave orders to the Nam Hoi Magistrate to seize all Chan Lun Tai's property. It is now reported that the assistant magistrate has seized the following properties belonging to Chan Lun Tai viz.:—Engineering shop at Shap Pat Po, head office at Nam Kwan, six houses at back of head office, engineering shop at Honam and eight steam launches. Viceroy Chou Fu has also sent a despatch to Viceroy Chang Chih-tung requesting the latter official to order Magistrate Yeung Yum Ting who was chief deputy of the reclamation works (who is at present on leave to his native country at Hupeh) to be immediately sent back to Canton for the investigation of his accounts regarding the reclamation affairs.

25 PIRATES EXECUTED.

Admiral Li Tsnn went to the Kong Po military station on the 24th instant to witness the execution of 25 pirates who had already been tried and condemned to capital punishment.

A CHINESE DEPTOR.

On representation being made by the British Authorities on behalf of the creditors, Viceroy Chou Fu caused Leong Fo Sheung's house in Shap Ng Po to be seized. It is reported that Leong's debts in Hongkong amount to the huge sum of about \$100,000.

STEPS TO PROMOTION.

Expectant Prefect Chung Van Pong was one of the officials who came to Canton with Viceroy Chou Fu. Prefect Chung is a doctor by profession. Recently the Viceroy was suffering from a sore foot and Chung was summoned to the yamen to attend to him. It is reported that Chung has cured His Excellency and he intends to appoint the prefect as principal medical officer of the Provincial Army and the military colleges.

PRESS IN LEADING STRINGS.

Viceroy Chou Fu has received a copy of the new Press Laws from Peking. His Excellency sent a copy of it to the Nam Hoi Magistrate. Yesterday the magistrate invited the editors of the local press, who called at the magistracy and were requested to affix their signatures to the document in acknowledgment that the laws are enforced. The interview lasted over an hour, during which the magistrate suggested to the members of the press that they should establish a public hall where meetings could be held to investigate press affairs. They should also communicate regularly with the commercial and labour societies abroad so as to ascertain the treatment of the Chinese by foreigners.

January 30th

CHINESE SHIPPING SCHEME.

Tao-tai Lai Kwai-pni has returned to Canton. He called on Viceroy Chou Fu yesterday and had a long interview. It is reported that the President and Vice-President of the Bureau of Posts and Communications have appointed Lai Tao-tai as deputy to inspect the railway and steamship navigation affairs of South China. He intends to raise capital in South China and the Straits Settlement to float a large steamship company which will run regular lines of steamers between the various ports in South China and foreign countries.

EIGHT PASSENGERS DROWNED.

At about 2.30 p.m. yesterday while one of the Hongkong river steamers was approaching her wharf, the waves caused by the motion of her propeller capsized one of the new stern wheeler ferry boats in which there were eleven passengers, only three of whom were saved.

CANTON-HANOW RAILWAY.

In a previous letter I give an account of the resolutions passed and adopted in a private meeting held at the Kwong Chai Hospital by the gentry of the nine charitable institutions. It is reported that the Nam Hoi magistrate has received instructions from the Viceroy to investigate the matter and to find out the names of all the persons who attended the

meeting. It is said that Lau Chi-leong, who acted as vice-chairman at that meeting, has been arrested and is now detained in the magistracy.

PROPOSED BRIDGE.

Tao-tai Lan Cheung-hing petitioned Viceroy Chou Fu requesting His Excellency to grant him authority to raise capital in Canton to float a company to build a bridge across Honam. He also submitted a prospectus of the proposed concern to His Excellency, in which was stated that a royalty of 5 per cent would be paid to the Government out of the net profits earned by the company annually. The Viceroy is said to have sanctioned the request and added that the company need not pay the royalty of 5 per cent to the Government but to create a reserve fund with that money for the construction of other bridges.

CHINESE EXPOSITION.

Viceroy Chou Fu received a cablegram from His Excellency Chao Erh-hsun stating that the great warehouse for the exhibition of all China products and articles manufactured in the various provinces has been completed at Mukden and requesting His Excellency Chou Fu to forward all Kwantung products and articles manufactured in that province as soon as possible.

ALLEGED CHINESE REVOLUTIONARIES.

THE SHANGHAI DISPUTE.

A Daily Press telegram dated Shanghai, January 28th, said:—Despite the protests of the prisoners' counsel in the Mixed Court, the British Assessor has decided to turn over to the Chinese authorities the alleged revolutionaries, Chang Pao-ching and Huang Yik.

The Court has accepted as *prima facie* evidence the letter from Tuan Fang containing specific charges based on statements of the other prisoners already convicted at Nanking.

The municipality is not opposed to the surrender on the ground of the prisoners' brief residence at Shanghai, and that their previous record does not entitle them to special protection.

AMERICA AND JAPAN.

A Daily Press telegram dated Tokyo, January 29th, said:—

Baron Hayashi, replying to the Opposition criticism of the alleged weakness of the foreign policy, detailed the negotiations over the San Francisco question, said that in the event of the test case being decided against Japan the anti-Japanese movement might then be considered to be the opinion of the whole of America which at present it was not, and until then, the affair could not be considered to have reached the status of a diplomatic issue.

Later.

Continuing, he referred to the Dally Customs proposals, and said they might safely entrust the Manchuria Railway and its administration to foreign criticism. Japan had no intention of monopolizing Manchuria, and the accusation was due to ignorance of the circumstances attending their intervention there. Some hundreds of thousands of troops on the spot naturally created conditions favourable to Japan; it was unavoidable that the first comers should find themselves in a better position than later arrivals. The Government's difficulties were now becoming better understood in Europe, where the Powers strongly affirmed and approved Japan's unaggressive policy.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

A Daily Press telegram dated Tokyo, January 29th, said:

Serious friction at Antung has led to a diplomatic crisis between the representative of China and Japan. The local taotai has enlisted a body of native police, completely ignoring Japanese authority and Japanese treaty rights. It is alleged that his men have arrested and punished six innocent Japanese who were ultimately released from durance by the Japanese military police. There is also a suggestion that the taotai's action was instigated by his superior officer at Mukden.

COMPANIES.

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN CO., LTD.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the office of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co., on the 26th January. Mr. R. Shewan presided and there were also present Messrs. H. P. White, Chow Hing-kee and Dr. Noble (consulting committee), Mr. J. A. Young (secretary) and Messrs. E. Haskell and W. J. Carroll.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said: Following the usual custom we will, with your permission, consider the report and accounts as read. The year under review has been a very difficult one, owing to unprecedented dullness in trade and a severe slump in value of real estate. Our turnover was, therefore, very considerably restricted, and in consequence for a considerable part of the year we had funds in hand, which we were unable to put out on satisfactory security. In spite of this we are still able to pay the usual dividend of 8 per cent besides placing \$15,000 to Reserve, a result which I venture to think will be considered quite satisfactory by shareholders. We have had to re-adjust the value of our shares held against Invest of Reserve, which is unfortunate, but we have little doubt that the amount thus written off will soon come back as the share market revives. Other items in the accounts are very much as usual, and do not require explanation. In conclusion we hope that the report of the "Special Commission" to enquire into the administration of the Sanitary and Building Regulations under the Public Health Ordinance will benefit property in the long run, and that the requirements of the Sanitary Board will be modified to a considerable degree, for if the serious drop in values of 25 to 30 per cent cannot altogether be attributed to these regulations, it has certainly accentuated the depression to a very large extent. I am glad to say that all our loans seem quite safe and give us no cause for uneasiness.

Shareholders were then given the customary opportunity to ask questions, but none were asked and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Dr. NOBLE seconded, and the motion was carried nem. con.

Mr. HASKELL proposed the re-election of Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, H. P. White, Dr. J. W. Noble and Mr. Chow Hing-kee to the consulting committee.

Mr. CARROLL seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts were re-elected auditors on the motion of Mr. H. P. WHITE, seconded by Mr. CHOW HING-KEE.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am obliged to you for your attendance. Dividend warrants are ready now.

HONGKONG LAND RECLAMATION CO., LTD.

The ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., was held at the Company's office, Victoria Buildings, on the 26th January. The hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater, Mr. D. M. Nissim and Mr. A. J. Raymond (directors), Mr. M. S. Northcote (secretary) and Messrs. H. Percy Smith, A. Haupt, F. M. Grace, J. M. Grace, J. Orange, A. Shelton Hooper, J. C. Peter, C. H. Ross and Lo Cheung-shiu.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, after which

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen. The report and accounts having been in your hands for the past week, we will, with your permission, take them as read. There is little, if anything, in the accounts before you for me to comment on. Our revenue from interest and mortgage having extended over the full period, instead of as in last year for a few months only, receipts show an increase of some \$26,000; on the other hand rents have declined, the Admiralty having given up their tenancy of the coal storage ground at Yau-mati. Our houses on Kowloon Marine Lot 49 continue to be well occupied and are in good repair. The

reclamation work in front of this lot is still in progress and though somewhat delayed by the typhoons of last September should be completed during the current year. No sales of land have taken place during the past twelve months and your directors do not recommend a dividend of more than 7 per cent, the payment of which will absorb some \$23,000 of the balance brought forward from 1905. If any further information is desired I shall be pleased to give it.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HAUPt and carried unanimously.

Mr. HOOPER moved the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. D. M. Nissim to the Board of Directors.

Mr. LO CHEUNG-SHIU seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. J. M. GRACE proposed and Mr. ROSS seconded the re-election of Messrs. A. J. Raymond and Ho Tung as directors. Carried.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin were re-appointed auditors on the motion of Mr. PETER, seconded by Mr. ORANGE.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

The eighteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on Jan. 28th. Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson presided, other shareholders present being Sir Paul Chater and Messrs. A. Haupt, A. J. Raymond, D. M. Nissim, S. A. Siebs and H. P. White (directors), A. Shelton Hooper (secretary), T. F. Hough, J. Orange, H. Percy Smith, F. Ellis, C. W. May, D. K. Moss, A. H. Ough and A. Rodgers.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said:

Gentlemen—With your sanction, I propose to take the report and accounts as read. During the year under review, the property market in common with all other markets has suffered from the period of depressed trade, which I trust we are rapidly leaving behind us. The conditions have been such as to preclude the sale of any of our properties, and as no lots with a reasonable prospect of advantageous development have been submitted to us, the company has not derived any revenue from this branch of its business. A comparison of our assets with the year 1905 shows that the amount advanced on mortgage has decreased by \$44,553, and that a further sum of \$65,000 has been spent on developing properties, making our property investments \$1,500,975.75, against \$1,985,771.91 in 1905. Dealing with profit and loss account the return from that important source of our revenue, "Rents," shows an increase of \$91,138. This in a measure must be considered satisfactory, but I regret to say that in spite of every endeavour we have still a number of vacant tenements, although not so many as a year ago. From the census recently taken, you are aware that there has been a reduction in the Chinese population, there are other causes also which have seriously affected properties, but as we must all hope for the amelioration, if not the removal, of useless restrictions it would appear to be reasonable to anticipate a gradually increased return from Chinese rentals. There is an increase of \$2,800 in commission account. On the debit side of the account you will find interest account, and with the withdrawal of funds invested on mortgage it is only to be expected that our revenue under this heading must be gradually declining, one, the actual decrease this year being \$51,891.88. Charges account is practically unaltered, while fire insurance is some \$2,800 more. The cost of repairs increased from \$11,057.26 to \$14,064.36 which is accounted for by the damage done by the typhoons, and estimated at about \$6,000. Summarised, the net earnings of the year are \$51,811.23 more than in 1905, if you exclude from that year the \$101,556 derived from profit on "Property and Investment," and this result your directors trust you may consider satisfactory. If any further information is desired, I shall be pleased to give it to the best of my ability.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, after which

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen. The report and accounts having been in your hands for the past week, we will, with your permission, take them as read. There is little, if anything, in the accounts before you for me to comment on. Our revenue from interest and mortgage having extended over the full period, instead of as in last year for a few months only, receipts show an increase of some \$26,000; on the other hand rents have declined, the Admiralty having given up their tenancy of the coal storage ground at Yau-mati. Our houses on Kowloon Marine Lot 49 continue to be well occupied and are in good repair. The

Mr. MOSS—Mr. Chairman, there is an amount among the assets of \$6,050,975.75. How is it that nothing has been written off for depreciation of property?

The CHAIRMAN.—The answer to that question is that the property is never written down because anything that is necessary is provided on the other side of the account for depreciation.

Mr. MOSS—If your property stands like this in the books, what do you think would happen in case of a big fire? Do you think the Insurance Companies would pay up the full amount? They don't pay up book value, they pay up actual value.

The CHAIRMAN—The Insurance Companies would pay up the actual value for which we are insured.

Mr. MOSS—Is that the custom?

The CHAIRMAN—We are fully insured.

Mr. MOSS—I know it is not the custom amongst fire insurance companies to pay up like that.

The CHAIRMAN—I think that in the case of a Company like this the insurance companies would recognise any claim submitted provided it was justifiable. There would be no difficulty in recovering the full amount of our insurance.

Mr. MOSS—I don't think they would, and with regard to accounts payable \$1,957,541.26, how much of that is out on loan on which we are paying interest?

Mr. HOOPER—Receiving interest.

Mr. MOSS—Receiving interest. What I mean to say is that some of the amount must be contractors' accounts. Surely there is not a book amount like this all due.

The CHAIRMAN—You seem to be a little bit vague about what information you require.

Mr. MOSS—Well, I'd like the accounts payable split up in more detailed manner so that we can know exactly what it is.

The CHAIRMAN—If you look on the other side of the account you will see an amount transferred to mortgage; deduct that from the accounts payable.

Mr. MOSS—That leaves roughly \$600,000 in accounts payable. What does that consist of?

The CHAIRMAN—The difference between the two is really represented by an overdraft with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Mr. MOSS—Oh! I see. That's all.

The CHAIRMAN—If nobody desires further information I will propose that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.

No further question being asked, the CHAIRMAN moved accordingly.

Mr. HOOPER—I rise to second the adoption of the report and accounts. The lucid manner in which they have been dealt with by our Chairman leaves me very little to say, but I must echo what has fallen from him in hoping that the drastic laws which at present so handicap property holders may be considerably modified in the near future. I do not like to say too much about this, looking as we do on the matter as one which may be opened up shortly. We have now sitting a Royal Commission dealing exhaustively with matters concerning property, and I look forward hopefully to the outcome of their deliberations, and with confidence that whatever recommendations they may put forward will bring amelioration of our lot. (Applause). The year that has passed has been a troublous one; it is brought home to us now when we are closing up our accounts, the losses we have sustained, and it is a matter for congratulation that our directors are able to recommend the payment of the dividend they have done. (Applause.) There is a lot of the Oliver Twist about shareholders, and at times we are perhaps too prone to hold out our hands for more. On this occasion I think we are fortunate, and the least we can do is to cheer on our directors and management and show our appreciation of the year's work. (Applause).

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. D. M. Nissim's appointment to the Board of Directors was confirmed on the motion of Mr. MOSS, seconded by Mr. RODGERS.

Mr. PERCY SMITH moved the re-election of Messrs. A. J. Raymond and D. M. Nissim to the Board of Directors.

Mr. MAY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

It was proposed by Mr. ORANGE, seconded by Mr. OUGH and carried unanimously that Messrs. H. Percy Smith and C. W. May should be reappointed auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—Dividend warrants will be ready on application to-morrow morning. I thank you for your attendance, gentleman.

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LTD.

The eighteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the West Point Building Co., Ltd., was held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on January 28th. Sir Paul Chater presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Messrs. A. J. Raymond and A. G. Wood (directors), Mr. A. Shelton Hooper (secretary), and Messrs. J. Orange, F. Maitland, F. Ellis, G. C. Moxon, H. Percy Smith, A. Haupt, J. M. Grace, E. H. Haskell and C. W. May.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting after which

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, With your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. The result of the year's working shows a net profit of \$52,546.69 as against \$45,700.67, which enables us to pay a dividend of \$4.10 as against \$3.65 for the previous year. You will notice that on the credit side of profit and loss account rents received stand at \$60,000, whereas in the 1905 account the amount under that heading was shown as \$65,251.04, the reason being that the latter amount included rates which were payable to the Government and refunded by the tenant; but as the tenant now pays rates direct to the Government and they do not appear in our books the net rent received is alone shown, and in consequence thereof they do not appear either on the debit side of this account. As you will also notice, Crown rent alone is being charged at \$818 as against \$9,069.04 shown in the 1905 account for Crown rent and rates. The cost of property this year is shown as \$2,968.01 in excess of last year, being the cost of improving the water service required by the introduction of the rider main system demanded by the Government. The cost of the upkeep of the property is about \$4,000 less than the previous year, which considering the destructive typhoons experienced, your directors deem very satisfactory. If any shareholder wishes for further information, I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. HAUPT seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. ORANGE moved the confirmation of the appointment of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson to the Board of Directors.

The motion was seconded by Mr. ELLIS and carried.

Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. A. J. Raymond were re-elected to the Board of Directors on the motion of Mr. MAITLAND, seconded by Mr. HASKELL.

Mr. MOXON proposed, and Mr. GRACE seconded, the re-election of Mr. C. W. May as auditor.

The Chairman—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The report of the directors, for the year 1906, for presentation to the shareholders at the ordinary annual general meeting of the Company, to be held at Alexandra Buildings, at noon on Saturday, February 9th, reads:—

Gentlemen.—The directors now beg to submit to you their report and statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The net profit for that period amounts to \$140,551.69 To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account \$5,070.62

\$145,622.31

And from this have to be deducted:— Remuneration to directors 5% commission on net profits... \$7,027.58

Remuneration to general managers on net profits ...	7,027.58
	14,055.16

Leaving available for appropriation ...	\$131,567.15
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The directors recommend that a dividend of eight per cent on the paid up capital be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$131,000.00 and that the balance of \$11,567.15 be carried to a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. C. Ewens having resigned, Mr. J. Scott Harston was invited to fill the vacancy and accepted a seat on the Board. In accordance with rule 76 of the Company's articles of Association, Messrs. A. G. Wood, J. S. Van Buren, J. Scott Harston, H. A. W. Slade and Ho Tung retire; but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Haskell and W. Hatton Poole, who offer themselves for re-election.

HENRY HUMPHREYS,
Chairman.

The Balance Sheet for 1906 reads:—

LIABILITIES.	
Capital account	\$ c.
15,000 shares at \$100 each	1,500,000
Insurance reserve fund	212,731.43
Fund for equalization of dividend	5,000.00
Mortgages	130,000.00
Sundry creditors	51,281.69
Unclaimed dividends	5,217.49
Profit and loss account	
Amount carried forward from 1905	\$ 5,770.62
For the year 1906	140,551.69
	145,622.31

ASSETS.	
Amount invested in property	\$ 1,111,218.39
Amount invested in mortgage	57,921.57
Accounts receivable	77,921.43
Office furniture	528.00
Fire Insurance premium unexpired	329.71
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and on Hand	4,612.81

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	
Dec. 31st, 1906	Dr. \$ c.
To fire insurance premium	4,933.50
To crown rent	3,528.68
To general charges	2,961.98
To allowance to general managers to cover office rent and salaries of secretary and clerks	8,000.00
To repairs (ordinary)	\$ 3,065.68
To repairs (typhoon)	13,516.88
	17,645.53
To auditors' fees	250.00
To balance	145,622.31

Jan. 1st, 1907. Cr. \$ c.	
By balance carried forward from 1906	5,770.62
By rents	91,008.22
By interest	12,761.11
By transfer fees	216.00
By profits on sales of properties	41,536.14
	183,940.99

KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY.

The eighteenth report of the board of directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders to be held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, on Monday, 4th February, 1907, states:—

Gentlemen.—The directors now submit to you a statement of the affairs of the Company, and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The balance of profit and loss account for the year, after writing off all charges and expenses, amounted to \$16,639.15. The directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of \$2.50 per share be paid, which, after writing off the directors' and auditor's fees will leave a balance of \$1,089.15 to be carried forward to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. A. Rodgers and W. H. Haskell retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. May in place of the late Mr. Thos. Arnold.

Mr. May now retires, but offers himself for re-election.

T. F. HOUGH,

Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET.

Dec. 31st, 1906. LIABILITIES. \$ c.	
Paid-capital	180,000.00
Accounts payable	304.11
Dividends outstanding	122.05
Balance of profit and loss account	16,639.15

\$197,065.31

Dec. 31st, 1906. ASSETS. \$ c.	
Cash	13,018.63
Cost of property	182,382.17
Accounts receivable	2,014.51

\$197,065.31

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dec. 31st, 1906. Dr. \$ c.	
To charges	771.20
To repairs	1,055.20
To fire insurance	535.48
To crown rent	786.00
To commission to agents	1,200.59

To balance to be appropriated as follows:—

Directors' fees	\$ 500.00
Auditor's fees	50.00
Dividend of \$2.50 per share	15,000.00
To be carried to new profit and loss account	1,089.15

16,639.15

\$20,987.62

Jan. 1st, 1907. Cr. \$ c.	
By undivided profits 1/65	574.29
By Rent	20,279.14
By interest	117.19
By script fees	17.00

520,987.6

CORRESPONDENCE.

INDIANS, PULL TOGETHER!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—India's heavy sons since last hundreds of years has been governing by the foreigners, before being not any rule and regulation in the country to be governed but only sword was thought for that purpose. I must not forget to write that that period of administration was rather unbearable to the people. The chief cause of this sort of anarchy was disunion of Indians caused by caste question, and Mohammedan Emperors were defeated by English peoples. Entirely under British crown, Indians have lost independency but notwithstanding not leaving their disunion. It is the quite natural to the foreigner to live like a brother in the foreign country, but our Indian brothers sow seeds of the disunion among themselves even in the foreign land too. In India now a days educated leaders are to solve this, and by the grace this sort of damn all evil is being removed from to and fro. In Hongkong not like the foreign brethren Indians try to disperse racial questions; for this reason one caste man cannot sit another caste man in progressing state for the present leaving aside the Indian Regiments having jealousy there are mostly Sikhs and Mohammedans employed Sindi, Parsees, and Mohammedans are the shopkeepers. There is no brotherhood. Supposing one Indian in any office, another Indian on the same post would never leave any opportunity on a less pay. For the example before 18 years ago one Indian watch man was offered \$50 per month with lodging and ration free etc. but now as the majority of illiterate Indians imported and racial question arose they try to each other defame. . . . [A special grievance here cited, but too personal for publication] . . . Thinking him my country man, he questioned me about my religion. I simply told him that there is no religion to be questioned in foreign land; the religion field

COMMERCIAL.

OPIUM

Hongkong, February 2nd.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.
Malwa New \$800 to — per picul.
Malwa Old \$860 to — do.
Malwa Older \$920 to — do.
Malwa Very Old \$960 to — do.
Persian Fine Quality \$600 to — do.
Persian Extra Fine \$675 to — do.
Patna New \$880 to — per chest.
Patna Old — to — do.
Benares New \$805 to — do.
Benares Old — to — do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai 24th January, 1907, states:—There is still a fair amount of buying and selling going on amongst the natives, but fresh business from first hands is dwindling down to vanishing point, many of the native operators already leaving for their country homes. What business is reported was mostly done in the early part of the interval, or in fact any time during the last ten days. The continued decline in exchange is having an inspiring effect on the market and great things are being looked forward to so soon as trade is resumed after China New Year. Money is plentiful and interest low, and the prospects for the annual settling amongst the natives engaged in this branch of the trade look very favourable. They have had their ups and downs, and not a few of them must admit it was sheer "joss pidgin" that enabled them to do as well as they have. It is being confidently anticipated that shipments to the northern markets the beginning of the season will be much freer than they have been the last few years, and that stocks here will shew a considerable depletion by the end of April or May. News has come from Newchwang through native sources that the customs revenue collected by the Japanese Authorities has now been handed over to the rightful owners, but there are still some hitches, apparently about the complete evacuation. From the same source also comes reports of financial troubles amongst the native bankers in Moukden, but it is difficult to gauge the amount of truth contained in these rumours, which may, as likely as not, be only spread with an object in order to discredit the powers that be. Szechuen seems to be bracing up again, at all events so far as yarns are concerned, but it is not so easy to find out the destination of woven goods that are resold by the dealers. Clearances generally have shown some improvement, and fairly free shipments are being made to Ching-wan-tao. There is not much news of the Manchester market beyond that there is a good business doing, and from the difficulty operators are finding in connecting it is plainly seen manufacturers can still afford to quote very high prices. This of course must necessarily lead to more competition, so it is not surprising to hear that by the Autumn 8,000,000 new spindles and 65,000 new looms will be in operation in Lancashire alone. Cotton has been subject to some fluctuations on the Liverpool market, this morning the quotation for spot Mid-American coming 5.86d., while yesterday 5.59d. was quoted for the rest of the month. Egyptian is 10½d. The latest New York quotation is 9.37 cents for March option. There is no definite news of the market, though it is rumoured offers have been made of goods at a decline of fourpence. A good business continued in Indian yarns the early part of the interval for Szechuen, but at the close the market is quieter for all spinnings. Native cotton in firmer. Grey shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—At the close of last week a fair amount of business was done, chiefly for Hankow, the transactions reported, mostly resales, showing a profit of about 2 per cent. to the dealers, but still 4 to 5 per cent. below replacing cost. White shirtings—Two transactions are reported, most likely resales, namely 5,000 pieces Syce and Bat at Tls. 3.50 and the same quantity Blue Cock at Tls. 4.55. We understand other business has been done in heavy cloths that show an advance of two to three mace in the last three weeks. The tendency was distinctly easier for all makes at auction this morning. T-Cloths.—Prices weak and drooping at auction. We have not heard of any private transactions. Jeans.—English—Sales of 6,000 each 30 and 40 yard goods respectively at Tls. 3.00 and Tls. 4.00 are reported privately. Auction prices were easier. Drills.—American.—Two sales of 3.25 yard makes are reported, amounting to 18,750 pieces, namely—Pelzer Fat at Tls. 362½ and Augusta at Tls. 3.65. Re-sales amongst the natives have only been made to a moderate extent. Sheetings—We have not heard of any transactions from first hands, and do not think the transactions amongst the natives have been so brisk this week. Fancy Goods.—

We are told further large parcels of common figured cotton lasts have been forced off, both privately and by auction, for delivery after the holidays. Turkey Reds are hard to move privately and prices are drooping at auction. We understand indents for a fairly good line of common Fast Black Cotton Italians has gone through, while at auction, with few exception, considerable weakness has been shown. Venetians are rapidly coming into favour; they are in good demand for Newchwang, and sales for that market recently have been replaced by fresh indents. A few indents for special prints have been booked, while some orders for steam prints are pending. Woollens. Prices at auction have ruled most irregularly. In Camlets this is specially noticeable, and to a slightly lesser extent in Long Ells, the tendency in both being decidedly lower. Lastings are certainly weaker, and Spanish Stripes look inclined that way, though favorite cloths keep fairly steady. Cotton Yarn.—English. A sale is reported of 100 bales gold 5. Eagle 2.32s. at Tls. 132.50. Indian. The demand for Szechuen showed further development the earlier part of the interval and a good business was done at slightly easier prices for No. 10s, but fairly steady for No. 20, buyers for Tsingtau also participating in the demand for the higher count. A few No. 12s, were taken at steady to firm prices for Kiukiang.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 23rd Jan., 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best Selected	11.36.50
Do. Seconds	11.32.50
Buffalo Hides, Best Selected	11.22.50
Goatskin, untanned, chiefly white colour ..	11.62.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	11.7.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.10.00
White China Grass, Singhan and/or Chayu ..	11.0.80
Green China Grass, Szechuen	11.11.00
Jute	11.5.60
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.9.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	11.9.10
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	11.9.00
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	11.13.00
Animal Tallow	11.10.00
Gallnuts, usual shape	11.14.80
Gallnuts, Plum do	11.16.50
Tobacco Tingchow	11.6.50
Tobacco Wongkong	11.9.00
Turmeric	11.5.50
Sesamum Seed	11.5.40
Sesamum Seed Oil	11.11.00
Tea Oil	11.8.00

Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnight Produce Circular, dated Shanghai, 21st January, 1907, for the following:—Gallnuts.—The home market is weaker and only little business done; prices asked by the Chinese are unchanged. Cowhides—Our market remains unchanged, and demand from home is improving. A fair business done at steady prices. Tobacco—Only little business done in Wongkong at last price, market is unchanged. Feathers.—The demand from home is improving, and prices have advanced further for all descriptions. Cotton.—A few transactions to Europe have been made at last prices, and the market remains steady. Tallow—Animal—Small supplies and prices asked by the Chinese made transactions impossible. White veget.—Our market remains firm and a fair business done. Green veget.—Prices asked are too high. Strawbrill—Loyeh White is about the only article of interest and sales have been made at current rates. Split Straw in medium sizes finds a ready market but the prices asked are too high. Wool—Sheep's.—A good business done at high prices. Camels.—Supplies are coming forward freely and prices are a little easier. Goatskin Rugs.—There are only a few stocks on the market and the demand is a little better. Dogskin Mata.—Our market remains quiet. Wood Oil. Firm market although there is not much demand. Antimony—Prices are a little easier.

Per P. & O. steamer *Accadia*, sailed on 26th January. For Manchester:—170 bales waste silk. For Lyon:—98 bales raw silk. For Barcelona:—2 cases silk piece goods, 1 case paper boxes. For London:—175 bales waste silk, 13 cases silk, 2 cases brass gongs, 12 packages tea, 1 case ermine skins, 2 packages old documents, 157 rolls matting, 1 case sandalwood fans, 1 case jade ware, 1 case Chinese pictures, 218 cases hats, 3 cases private effects, 1 case brushes, 1 case curios. For Marseilles:—6 cases hats, 11 cases feathers, 60 bales raw silk. For Genoa:—235 bales waste silk.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 4th February, 1907.		
Apricot	\$9.50 to —	
Borax	\$16. .. \$18	
Cassia	\$13. .. \$17	
Cloves	\$20. .. \$38	
Camphor	\$160. .. \$170	
Cow Bezoar	\$115. .. \$130	
Fennel Seeds	\$5. .. —	
Galanjal	\$2.50 .. \$4	
Grapes	\$16. .. \$17	
Kismis	\$16. .. \$17	
Glue	\$26. .. \$27.50	
Olibanum	\$4. .. \$19	
Oil Sandalwood	\$150. .. \$350	
" Rose	\$50. .. \$150	
Cassia	\$180. .. \$185	
Raisins	\$8. .. —	
Senna Leaves	\$3. .. \$7	
Sandalwood	\$25. .. \$26.50	
Salt-peter	\$9.50 .. —	

SHARE REPORTS.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have receded, and sales have been made at the reduced rate of \$925 for cash, while a small demand for March has not been productive of business, sellers demanding higher rates than buyers are prepared to give at the moment. The market closes fairly steady with a few small sellers at \$925. Nationals have been placed during the week at the advanced rate of \$50 and \$51, closing with further buyers at the latter rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have found further buyers at \$800, and close steady at that rate. North Chinas are on offer at \$80, and an offer at a lower rate would find buyers. Cantons have been placed at \$295, and more shares are obtainable at the rate. Yangtze have been sold to the north at \$157. China Traders remain unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have found further buyers at \$375, but the market closes quiet at that rate. Chinas have again changed hands at \$95, and a few more small lots could probably be placed at that.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue steady at \$31, and a few sales have been made during the week, the market closing with an inclination to a higher rate. Indos have been quite neglected, and the closing quotation of \$37 is quite nominal. Chinas Manilas have been on offer during the week, but no sales have been effected, and the market closes weaker at 21 sellers. Star Ferries have changed hands in small lots at \$29 & 29½ for old shares, closing with further buyers at the latter rate. Shell Transports have improved with small sales to 31 ½, after sales at 30 ½, & 31 ½ the market closing with further buyers at 31 ½.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have continued to rule steady, and a few sales have been made at \$130, more shares being wanted at time of closing. Luzons remain unchanged and without business.

Mining.—Ranks have been placed during the week at \$83, closing rather weaker with a few small lots on offer at \$81. We have nothing else to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue out of favour, and the rate has fallen to \$144 with sales, the market closing with further sellers and no buyers over \$143. Kowloon Wharves, with sales at \$95, close steady at that rate, but with probable sellers. Shanghai Docks, after touching Tls. 110, close quieter with sellers in the north at Tls. 107. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have been negotiated locally, in a small way, at Tls. 24.5 own new issue. New Amoy Docks unchanged and without business.

LANDS HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain steady at \$107½ ex div. of \$3½ paid on the 21st ult. West Points remain in request at \$50 ex div. paid on the 29th ult. of \$2½. Kowloon Lands, after the publication of the report recommending the payment of a dividend of \$2.50, and carrying forward \$1089.15, have improved to \$39½ with buyers. Hongkong Hotels, being in demand and with no shares obtainable, have improved to \$121 with buyers. Humphreys Estates have been the medium of a fair business at \$12. This Company's report just issued recommends the payment of a dividend of 80 cents and the carrying forward \$11,587.15 to new account.

COTTON MILLS.—there are no changes or business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been placed at \$9.60 and \$9.70 ex the dividend

of 80 cents paid on the 28th ultimo. Cements have been placed at \$21 and \$21½, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Electrics have sellers at \$16, with no sales to report. Hongkong Ices have been done at \$250, and a small demand exists at that rate at time of closing. China Lights and Watsons have been placed at quotations, both closing with sellers. Powells have improved to \$7½ with sales.

Quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$120
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai..	\$125	\$925, sales London, £108
National B. of China		
A. Shares	£6	£51, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A..	12s. 6d.	£7, sellers
China-Borneo Co.....	£12	£10, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	£10	£9½, sales
China Provident	£10	£8.70, ex. div., sel
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 74
Hongkong	Tls. 10	\$11½
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 62
Laou Kung Mow ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 130
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375
Dairy Farm		\$6 \$16½
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.		\$50 \$95, sales
H. & W. Dock		\$50 \$144, sales & sel.
New Amoy Dock...		\$6½ \$12
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 107
S'hai & H. Wharf...	100	Tls. 238, x. n. issue Tls. 223, n. issue
Fenwick & Co., Geo...		\$25 \$21, sellers
G. Island Cement		\$10 \$21½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	£10	£175, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$16, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways...	\$100	\$215
Hongkong Hotel Co...	\$50	\$121, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$250
Hongkong Rope Co...	\$10	\$21, sellers
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	£6½, sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$295, sales & sel.
China Fire.....	\$20	\$95, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$90
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$375, sales
North China.....	25	Tls. 80, sellers
Union	\$100	\$800, sales
Yangtsze	\$60	£157½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$107½, x. d.
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
Kowloon Land & R.	\$80	£30½, buyers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 104½
WestPoint Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 63½, n. issue
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Rs. 250	\$450, nominal
Rauba.....	18½	£84, sellers
Philippine Co.		\$10 \$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$130, sales & buy.
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	£21, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$21, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	£36, sellers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	£30, sales
Indo-China S.N. Co.	£10	£87,
Shell Transport Co.	£1	£1 31/6, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	£29½, buyers
Do. New	£5	£20
South China M. Post.	\$25	£24
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	£5 5½
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	£30, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	£7½, buyers
Watkins.....	\$10	£2.50
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	£12, sales & sellers
United Asbestos	£4	£10, buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	£150

VERNON & SMYTH Brokers

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the Week ending January 24th, 1907, states:—There is no special feature to be recorded in last week's market beyond a further rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares to \$1,000, at which rate business has been done during the week for small lots of shares. A large order could be filled at lower rates. Shanghai Land Investment Co. In addition to the final dividend of Tls. 3, they intend to pay Tls. 1½ bonus and shares are firm in consequence, the rate for the new shares being Tls. 60½, and for the old shares Tls. 102½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A small number of shares have changed hands during the week at \$1,000. Hongkong quotes \$950, and the London quotation is £115. The T. T. on London to-day is 3½. Marine & Fire Ins. No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. The market for these shares is very quiet, a single operation being reported at Tls. 61 for cash. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. Ltd. Shares are offering at Tls. 60. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. The improvement in this stock has been maintained, and shares are now firm at Tls. 107½ cash. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have remained steady during the week. Forward business is reported at Tls. 250 March, and Tls. 252½ April c. n. i. Cash business has been done in the old shares at Tls. 234 and in the new shares at Tls. 224. Sugars. No business reported.—Lands.—Business has been done for new issue at Tls. 62½ cash and for the old issue at Tls. 102½. Mining. Kaipings are in demand at Tls. 11. Industrial.—Ewos have improved considerably, business having been done at Tls. 72, 73 and 74 cash, and Tls. 75 and 76 March. Laou Kung Mows. Owing to heavy buying by operators these shares are now practically unobtainable, and we understand that as high as Tls. 130 has been paid for shares. International Cottons remain quiet, business being reported at Tls. 63 for March. Shanghai Pulp & Paper Co. There is now a small demand for these shares at Tls. 120 cash and Tls. 122 March. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat. This market has been very quiet with sellers at Tls. 250 cash, and buyers at Tls. 247½. Business is reported at Tls. 250 cash and Tls. 253½ March. Sumatras. After rising to Tls. 110 these are now on offer at that rate without finding buyers. Stores and Hotels.—Hotel des Colonies are wanted at Tls. 15, and Weeks & Co., Ltd. Shares at \$20. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Telephone Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 50. Loans & Debentures. An operation is reported in Municipal Debentures at Tls. 100.

EXCHANGE

FRIDAY, Feb. 4th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	2.25
Bank Bills, on demand	2.21½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2.3
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	2.3½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.3½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2.3½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.3
Credits 4 months' sight	2.87½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.30
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	5.4½
Credits, 60 days' sight	5.5½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1.6½
Bank, on demand	1.6½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1.66½
Bank on demand	1.66½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bauk, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	109½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	109½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	4½ p.c.p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	134½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1½ p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON—	
On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	63½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$8.90
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$46.90
BAR SILVER, per oz.	31½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 25th January.—Freights are firmer. From Saigon to Hongkong a strong demand resulting in a large number of steamers, being closed the last rate paid being 15 cents per picul; to Philippines, 26 cents last for small carrier; to South Coast Japan, five steamers have been closed at 25 cents to 26 cents according to size; to Singapore, 14 cents last and 15 cents offering; to Java, 18 cents nominal. From North Coast Java to Hongkong, 27 cents per picul; to Japan, 10½ per ton. Coal freights are weak. From South Japan port to Hongkong, \$1.10 per ton last; to Canton, \$1.80 per ton. From Hongay to Canton, \$1.75 per ton. The following are the settlements:

Uda—Norwegian steamer, 878 tons, Wakamatsu to Canton, \$1.80 per ton.

Tjatjatjap—Dutch steamer, 2,475 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.20 per ton.

Hussey—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$1.10 per ton.

Providence—Norwegian steamer, 603 tons, Hongay to Canton, \$1.75 per ton.

Lydia—German steamer, 1,772 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Ithaka—German steamer, 1,448 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

An Indo China S. N. Co. steamer, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul (40,000).

Sierra Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,351 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12½ cents per picul.

Larkee—British steamer, 1,514 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Kaikoo—Chinese steamer, 1,487 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Chihli—British steamer, 1,143 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Heimdal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

Spac—Norwegian steamer, 870 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Johannes—German steamer, 952 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Ule—Norwegian steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Nord—Norwegian steamer, 730 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Germania—German steamer, 1,714 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Varg—Norwegian steamer, 767 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 947 tons, Saigon to Canton, 14½ cents and 16½ cents per picul.

Landrat Scheif—German steamer, 1,000 tons, Saigon to Canton, 15 cents and 17 cents per trip, picul.

An Indo China S. N. Co.'s steamer, six Saigon to Hongkong or Singapore, 14 cents, Canton, 16 cents per picul.

Prima—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$4,000 in full.

Skead—Norwegian steamer, 860 tons, Saigon to Singapore, \$4,000 in full.

An Indo China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to 12 ports South Coast Japan, 26 and 27 cents per picul.

Fido—Norwegian steamer, 890 tons, Saigon to Moji, 25 cents per picul.

An Indo China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Saigon to one port South Coast Japan, 26 cents per picul.

Dolf—Norwegian steamer, 629 tons, Saigon to Tientsin, 42½ cents per picul.

Standard—Norwegian steamer, 894 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (25,000), 24 cents balance, 23 cents per picul.

Prominent—Norwegian steamer, 746 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines (20,000), 26 cents per picul.

Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 947 tons, Saigon to Shanghai, 27 cents per picul.

FREIGHT.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports 40/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 40/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 32/- per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez):—Tea 39/6 per ton of 40 c. ft. plus river freight. To New York (overland):—Tea, G. \$1½ cents per lb. gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 to \$1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January— ARRIVALS.

25. Antiochus, British str., from Tacoma.
 25. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 25. Providence, Norw. str., from Hongay.
 26. Admiral Fourichon, Fr. str., from S'pore.
 26. Bingo Maru, Japanese str., from Antwerp.
 26. Chipshing, British str., from Bangkok.
 26. Hopsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 26. Shosbu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 26. Spezia, German str., from Shanghai.
 27. Germania, German str., from Surabaya.
 27. Lock Sun, German str., from Bangkok.
 27. Atroclus, British str., from Shanghai.
 27. Pronto, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
 27. Yingchow, British str., from Daluy.
 28. Alacrity, British des.-res., from Manila.
 28. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 28. China, Austrian str., from Japan.
 28. Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 28. Hne, French str., from Haiphong.
 28. Kabafuto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 28. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 28. Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
 28. Quinta, German str., from Bangkok.
 28. Shawmut, Amer. str., from Tacoma.
 28. Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 28. Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 28. Yangmoo, Korean str., from Kuchinotsu.
 29. Zafiro, British str., from Mauila.
 29. Glenogle, British str., from Rangoon.
 29. Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 29. Merapi, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 29. Mercedes, British trpt., from Singapore.
 29. Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 29. Indo, Norwegian str., from Wakamatsu.
 29. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 30. Masan Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 30. Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 30. Nippon Maru, Jap. str., from San Francisco.
 30. Suokiang, British str., from Cebu.
 31. Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
 31. Clara Jebsen, German str., from Haiphong.
 31. Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 31. Helene, German str., from Hoihow.
 31. Ithaka, German str., from Saigon.
 31. Opland, Norwegian str., from Wakamatsu.
 31. Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
 31. Talemachua, British str., from Saigon.
 31. Tinhaw, British str., from Saigon.

February—

1. Amara, British str., from Saigon.
 1. Drufar, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 1. Eastern, British str., from Sydney.
 1. Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
 1. Palma, British str., from London.
 1. Ponglong, German str., from Bangkok.
 1. Stentor, British str., from Liverpool.
 1. Taishun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 1. Tean, British str., from Mauila.
 1. Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 2. Alacrity, British des.-res., from Mirs Bay.
 2. Alger, French cruiser, from practice.
 2. Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 2. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 2. Huichow, British str., from Cebu.
 2. Lowther Castle, British str., from N. York.
 2. Michael Jeton, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 2. Shantung, British str., from Chekiang.
 3. Cheongshing, British str., from Saigon.
 3. Haifan, British str., from Swatow.
 3. Monmouthshire, British str., from London.
 3. Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
 3. Olio, British sloop, from Singapore.

January— DEPARTURES.

25. Austria, Austrian str., for Shanghai.
 25. Changchow, British str., for Swatow.
 25. Cheangobew, British str., for Amoy.
 25. Devanha, British str., for Shanghai.
 25. Fausang, British str., for Kohan (Toukin).
 25. Hongwan I, British str., for Amoy.
 25. Kanju Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.
 25. Karin, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 25. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 25. Phranang, German str., for Bangkok.
 25. Skuld, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 25. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 26. Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
 26. Arcadia, British str., for Europe.
 26. Chi-yuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 26. Diomed, British str., for Australia.
 26. Empire, British str., for Australia.
 26. Fukura Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 26. Hangchow, British str., for Chefoo.
 26. Laisang, British str., for Calcutta.

26. Loyal, German str., for Saigon.
 26. Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 26. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 26. Nord, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 26. Ribi, British str., for Manila.
 26. Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 26. Yahiko Maru, Japanese str., for Java.
 27. Chunsang, British str., for Hongay.
 27. Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 27. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 27. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 27. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 27. Ichang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27. Joshi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 27. Kwangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 27. Liangchow, British str., for Sandakan.
 27. Perla, British str., for Haiphong.
 27. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 27. Protector, Norw. str., for Cape Varella.
 27. Yunnan, British str., for Saigon.
 28. Alger, French cruiser, for practice.
 28. Admiral Fourichon, Fr. str., for Shanghai.
 28. Biogo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 28. Proteus, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 29. Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
 29. Dott, Norwegian str., for Ningpo.
 29. Gregory Apear, British str., for Japan.
 29. Indradeo, British str., for Newcastle.
 29. Mongolia, Austr. str., for San Francisco.
 29. Prima, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 29. Prometheus, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 29. Spezia, German str., for Hamburg.
 29. Totti, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 30. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 30. Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Trieste.
 30. Kowlon, German str., for Shanghai.
 30. Patroclus, British str., for London.
 30. Prince Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 30. Shosbu Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 30. Taming, British str., for Manila.
 30. Tjibodas, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 30. Totomi Maru, Japanese str., for Bombay.
 31. Borneo, British str., for London.
 31. Falk, Norwegian str., for Rajahg.
 31. Hiebing, British str., for Coast Ports.
 31. Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 31. Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
 31. Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 31. Mach-w, German str., for Bangkok.
 31. Marco Polo, Italian cruiser, for Shanghai.
 31. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 31. Ph-numpen, British str., for Saigon.
 31. Sxta, German str., for Saigon.
 31. Victoria, Swedish str., for Saigon.

February—

1. Alacrity, British des.-res., for Mirs Bay.
 1. Hopsang, British str., for Damaram.
 1. Kent, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 1. Maria, German str., for Saigon.
 1. Phuyen, French str., for Saigon.
 1. Preusse, German str., for Shanghai.
 1. Pronto, Norwegian str., for Hoihow.
 1. Riverton, British str., for Barmah.
 1. Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Rangoon.
 1. Spir, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 1. Sultorg, German str., for Saigon.
 1. Varg, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 1. Yangmoo, Korean str., for Kuchinotsu.
 1. Yu-nsang, British str., for Manila.
 2. Chipshing, British str., for Saigon.
 2. Helene, German str., for Swatow.
 2. K. Franz Josef I, Aust. cr., for Shanghai.
 2. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 2. Palma, British str., for Yokohama.
 2. Mauila, German str., for Sydney.
 2. Tatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 2. Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 3. Antiochus, British str., for Manila.
 3. Atnfrid, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 3. Bouchon, French str., for Saigon.
 3. Clara Jebsen, German str., for Saigon.
 3. Glenogle, British str., for Singapore.
 3. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 3. Masan Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 3. Meapi, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 3. Stentor, British str., for Nagasaki.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per Prince Heinrich, from Yokohama, Messrs. J. Pirnitzer and Andrews; from Kob., Mr. A. C. Lagon; from Nagasaki, Capt. Ehrhardt and Mr. N. Ribek; from Shanghai, Mr. J. Lyne, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Goode, Miss Cummings, Miss Morehead, Consul Dr. Rudenbender, Inspector Flaschke, Messrs. Gross, Crofts, Richard Ka-

- isch, E. Mackay, Hans Koch, Ede Boesemann, J. Stahl, Widnischek and Tabiassen.

Per Preussen, for Hongkong from Bremen, Mr. Joh. Kemlein; from Southampton, Messrs. T. Reidie, A. A. Clarkson, Mrs. Smith, and Mr. Smith; from Genoa, Messrs. Max Schober, C. F. Marten, Pastor G. Hoetzal, Emil Kill, Otto Wegmann, M. Stoltz, Leonh. Flierl, Gottfr. Goh, T. Lenwool, Miss M. Neuhaus, and H. E. Yang; from Colombo, Messrs. A. L. Bindloss and B. Toussaint; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Garland, Mrs. Richards, Messrs. N. M. Bhawalla, Y. Harris and E. N. Bassaras; from Singapore, Dr. W. Engelmann, Messrs. H. v. Waldhausen, W. D. Graham, L. P. Salomon, W. H. Ukers, R. Nishiawaki, Walter Palliser and G. S. Ross; for Shanghai from Bremen, Mr. Gust Hoffmann; from Southampton, Messrs. Wilh. Holliday, T. C. Hanson, and Miss Bertie Pinkham; from Genoa, Consul Max Muller, Messrs. E. Scharr, Siegm. Berg, C. Paschkes, Lorenzo Balcini, Kurt Reichardt, C. Wendt, Th. Schrammeyer, Fr. Brandeis, Jnl. Wondrak, Cugno Antenore and Corelli Cesare; from Naples, Rev. Fiorentini; from Suez, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss; from Colombo, Mr. G. F. Kesseleff; for Nagasaki from Singapore, Mr. O'Some; for Kobe from Genoa, Mr. W. Burchard; for Yokohama from Bremerhaven, Mr. Colms-Rodelheim; from Southampton, Messrs. R. M. Jonas and J. S. Pearson; from Naples, Rev. F. S. Swift; from Colombo, Messrs. C. B. Hathiramani and John Pearson; from Singapore, Mr. A. E. Rouffier and Rev. Randall.

Per Monmouthshire, from London, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Leake, Miss Gardiner, Miss Ling, Dr. Gilmour, and Mr. Hazlewood.

DEPARTED.

Per Mongoli, for San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Ingold, Mrs. S. A. Lloyd, Mrs. C. M. Buller, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Love, Mr. and Mrs. T. Arima, Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Forshee and infant, Mrs. R. Johnson, Mrs. E. B. Copeland and children, Mrs. R. F. Alcock, Mrs. J. C. Knudson, Mrs. A. W. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Hartzell and two children, Miss L. P. Stevens, Hon. Scrumbe Smith, Hon. C. H. Barrett, Lieut. C. H. Woodward, Messrs. Geo. L. Carlisle, A. Nygaard, A. W. Hippel, C. Martens, O. Hunt, De Graca, C. B. Ripley, Holzenberg, R. Pierre Saint, T. H. Long, A. H. Birdy, H. L. Ford, J. F. Brooke, E. B. Copeland, J. Norone and C. v. Pustau, Jr.

Per Prince Heinrich, for Hamburg, &c., Capt. von Abeken, Mr. and Mrs. Agenor de Azevedo, Mr. D. T. Ahrenberg, Mrs. Horace F. Arthur, Miss Brewer, Mrs. Brngel, Mrs. G. de Agmar Barros, Messrs. Pastor Boie, F. J. Bettinger, Dickie Bruins, H. Bestaling, R. Bush, D. H. Blake, J. H. Rode, Mrs. Crofts, Baronin C. Norrellis da Ccarazza, Mrs. L. W. Clarke, General-Consul F. de Castro, Mr. and Mrs. Dicke and children, Messrs. F. R. Daniel, G. E. Devor, J. Fink, C. C. Forster, Furness, T. Gathrie, Miss George, Messrs. Otto Heumann, W. V. Houghton, P. L. Hainsius, C. Hinckel, Mrs. A. H. Jaques, Rev. Fred. Jansen, Messrs. Fred. Johnson, R. Klotz, Mrs. Komor, Mrs. Komor, Mr. C. Lautofsky, Mrs. Merchant Mr. J. C. Macbride, Dr. P. Martin, Mr. Paul Messer, Dr. Will. Muller, Mr. E. Moudon, Mrs. and Miss von Neumann, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Neish, Messrs. Olkars, G. Owen, Mrs. Plaschka and children, Mrs. Herbert Piuckney and children, Mr. and Mrs. Powstański, Mr. E. Petersen, Capt. James F. Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. J. Quinn, Miss Martha Robinow, Messrs. Roulet, Hansen, F. Schlunk, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt-Schaff, Miss A. J. Safford, Mr. and Mrs. Siebenhauer, Miss Siebenhauer, Mrs. Thomas Saffer, Miss Stauffer, Miss Stevens, Mr. J. Stierlin, Miss Scott, Mr. C. F. Strane, Mrs. Serebrenikow and children, Messrs. A. Sussmann, August Steckmann, Mrs. C. O. Schonbrunn, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. O. Smith, Messrs. E. A. Smith, W. H. Schrammeyer, Otto Schlatte, Mrs. L. J. Thomas, Messrs. W. H. Thurnfield, R. J. Tobin, Valast, Mrs. F. Vivante, Mr. and Mrs. Van, Mr. J. J. Wijtema and children, Mrs. Withersby, Mr. White, Dr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, Rev. G. W. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.